

# UVM HISTORIC PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER

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

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## PORCHES AND PARTNERSHIPS: HP PROFESSORS RELEASE NEW PUBLICATIONS

BY JESS GOEROLD



Thomas Durant Visser (left) and Robert McCullough (right) on the Wheeler House veranda.

Photo by Robyn Sedgwick

For the faculty of the Historic Preservation Program at UVM, this past year has been a busy one. Two of our esteemed professors recently published books on topics that have been largely underserved until now.

*A Path for Kindred Spirits: The Friendship of Clarence Stein and Benton MacKaye*, by Robert L. McCullough, discusses the complex relationship between two great men who, separately were employed as an architect and a planner, but together became an unparalleled design team with a focus on conservation and well-designed public spaces.

Their most well-known collaboration is the plan for the Appalachian

Trail System, but the more than 50-year long friendship produced many lasting effects on the American landscape, both physical and cultural.

Prof. McCullough's interests lie in the discussion of landscape and place. The idea for this book started to take shape some years ago in a graduate seminar at Cornell. It was intended as a biography of Benton MacKaye, but in the process of reading through his personal letters and diaries (a prolific chronicler, there was an entry for almost every day of his adult life), it was clear that the story of MacKaye and Stein was an important one to tell.

(continued on page 3)

## GREETINGS FROM WHEELER HOUSE

Welcome to the University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program's annual newsletter.

Some of our most exciting news this year includes the various preservation and rehabilitation projects being done on Wheeler House, the 1842 home of the Historic Preservation Program and History Department. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the University's Physical Plant staff and the various architects, engineers, planners, contractors and trades workers, a wide range of projects and upgrades were completed this summer. A new at-grade entrance on the lower level has greatly improved access to the Historic Preservation Computer Lab and seminar rooms, and an ADA-compliant interior lift now provides wheelchair access up to the main offices. Also, a more energy-efficient HVAC system has been installed to improve comfort and air quality in the instructional spaces.

But as you will discover in the following articles reported by our students, this is just one of many important preservation projects that are currently underway on historic buildings on the University of Vermont campus.

We are also very excited about the recent career advancement accomplishments of many of our graduates and by the ongoing efforts by a group of our alumni to strengthen the UVM Historic Preservation Program Alumni Association, Inc. We greatly appreciate the on-going willingness of our alumni and other practicing professional preservationists to share their knowledge and insights with our students as guest speakers, project advisors, mentors, and as on-site information resources.

Especially, we would like to thank the many preservation professionals who met with our graduate students to assist with their spring field research projects in the Contemporary Preservation Planning and Policy Seminar. It is through such on-site direct contacts with preservation leaders working in locations across the continent and beyond that our students are exploring such questions as: What are the most common and most difficult contemporary preservation challenges and issues? What preservation policy and planning strategies are effective and appropriate? How are preservation policy and planning goals actually being addressed by professionals in the field?

Finally, we would also like to sincerely thank all the contributors to the UVM Historic Preservation Fund, whose generous gifts help to make possible the printing and distribution of this newsletter, as well as assisting with our ongoing investments in conservation laboratory equipment, software, and other instructional support for our historic preservation students. If you would like to join with other alumni and friends in offering tax-deductible gift support, contributions designated to the UVM Historic Preservation Program Fund may be made online at <http://alumni.uvm.edu/foundation/giving/online/>



Prof. Thomas Visser, Director, Historic Preservation Program

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(continued from page 1)

They were first introduced in the 1921 at a gathering at the Hudson Guild Farm in New Jersey. Stein was serving at the Chair of the AIA Committee on Community Planning; MacKaye took the opportunity to explain his idea for the Appalachian Trail, the proposal for which the AIA published later that year. From then on, the friendship blossomed. With differing educational and social backgrounds, each man contributed greatly and served as an invaluable sounding board for the other's ideas.

Both had a deep appreciation for the idea of a carefully planned yet natural American landscape and were influenced both by Ebenezer Howard's Garden City Movement in England and the increasingly popular idea that community forests could be used to combat urbanization (this happened most often in New England). They sought to show people a new way of engaging in recreation in a way that did not waste resources. In addition, they advocated for the public to think more carefully about resource use and sustainability. Though these words are common parlance now, these men were definitely ahead of their time.

*A Path for Kindred Spirits* was published in July 2012 by the Center for American Places at Columbia College Chicago Press (a division of the University of Chicago Press). "Art and landscape history is something that they champion", says McCullough, "and they did a great job designing this book." A meticulously researched and thoughtful narrative, it's a great read for those interested in environmental conservation and humanism in America.

Thomas Durant Visser's *Porches of North America* is the answer to our porch-related research problems. His new book takes an in-depth look at the American porch as a complete and significant architectural element in its own right. This flowing narrative catalogs the evolution of porches throughout Canada and the United States and is peppered with fascinating contextual excerpts from historic documents.

From the beginning, says Visser, the goal was "to produce a study that would be helpful for a broad range of people" and to create an accessible work that could be used as a tool for reference, read cover-to-cover or perused purely for enjoyment. Photos and drawings (of which there are many) have been given extensive captions, with detailed descriptions and information beyond just the physical features in view. All too often in

historic writing, images are given a brief title and left to speak for themselves. In this case the explanations are meaningful and well-integrated so as to be as informative and engaging as possible.

The idea for this book began to take shape almost ten years ago. Working with graduate students in Historic Preservation, Professor Visser noticed the distinct lack of scholarly research on porches. If mentioned at all, there was very little focus on features or origin. Authors also tended to ignore, downplay or dismiss completely any porch features that didn't quite match the rest of the building.

Practically speaking, this kind of omission can be especially problematic for historians. It isn't uncommon for a porch to relate curiously to its building and if not given separate consideration, it could become difficult to accurately describe and research the timeline of the building as a whole. Often, we disregard this difference in style as an anomaly and move on.

This attitude also overlooks the larger context of the porch as a social space. Porches are necessarily a strange mix of public and private life, such that there is an inherent symbolism in the way people interact with and use porch spaces. Naturally, the social currency of porches has evolved over the years and anthropologically speaking, there is much to be learned from studying this often overlooked area of life.

The history of porches goes back to the 1700s (in some areas even earlier), which is itself evidence of the rich array of examples revealed in the book. Though one might assume that porches are most useful in southern, warmer climates, they play an important role in the northern, cooler parts of the country as well; the various geographically- and culturally-distinct regions in Canada and the U.S. have their own unique porch styles.

As Prof. Visser cheerfully mentioned, "for a topic like this, one needs to get out and about." It was critical to acquire a wide variety of data from primary sources and photos from all over North America. He was fortunate enough to do just that, spending the 2008-09 academic year on sabbatical, traveling the United States and Canada; the time was well spent researching in the field, taking hundreds of photos, doing archival research and plenty of uninterrupted manuscript writing.

The finished product was published by University Press of New England in April 2012.

## UVM CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

By Robyn Sedgwick

Since 2011 the University of Vermont has conducted several preservation projects throughout the campus. According to Luce Hillman, Assistant Director of the University of Vermont's Physical Plant Department, preservation projects on the University Green are now finished, while projects on the President's House, the Alumni House, the Waterman Building, Southwick Hall, and Wheeler House are currently underway.

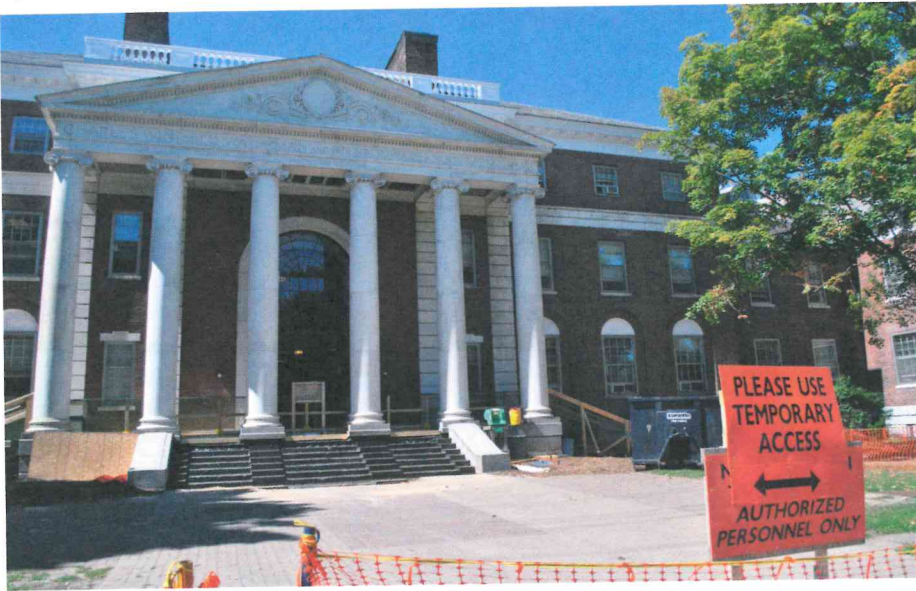
The President's House, located at the corner of South William Street and College Street, is also known as the Englesby House. This Colonial Revival style house was designed by the architects Henry Keith White and William Robb Wilder and built in 1914 for Dr. William Englesby. Mrs. Englesby willed the home to the University of Vermont in 1956.

For the next two academic years the house served as a dormitory for women. In 1959, upon the inauguration of John Fey as the University's new president, the house was converted into the President's House. Currently, the building is in the process of being repaired and renovated for the University's newest president, E. Thomas Sullivan.

The Alumni House, located at 61 Summit Street, formerly known as the Delta Psi fraternity house, is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style. The home was built in 1891 for Edward Wells and his family. In addition to being President of Burlington's Richardson & Co., Wells was a well known and influential businessman in Burlington. The Wells family remained in the house until 1919. In 1924, the house became the home of UVM's Delta Psi fraternity. The fraternity remained in the house until 2003. In 2007, the house was bought by UVM, this time to become the Alumni

House. The proposed project will consist of a repairs, new construction, restoration, and renovation.

The University has several maintenance projects underway at Waterman Building. Waterman was built in 1940-41 to the designs of the architectural firm McKim, Mead, and White. Presently, the building's front brass doors and historic lights surrounding these doors are being cleaned and restored. The massive granite entrance steps have been removed due to the deterioration of the



*Waterman Memorial Building undergoing improvements to the primary facade.*

*Photo by Robyn Sedgwick*

waterproofing beneath. The granite has been sent to Barre, Vermont, where it is being cleaned and repaired. In addition to these projects, the woodwork on the north and east elevations is being repainted this fall, while those on the west elevation will be painted next fall. Finally, the parts of

Waterman's upper roof will be replaced in kind.

Last year the cast iron fountain on the University Green, historically known as the Howard Fountain, was removed for restoration and renovated to its original form. In addition to the restoration of the fountain, the fountain's basin was repaired and the concrete sidewalks on the green were redone.

Southwick Hall, located on the Redstone Campus, was designed in 1934 by the architectural firm McKim, Mead, and White. According to Ms. Hillman, the painting and repair of the building has been an ongoing project.

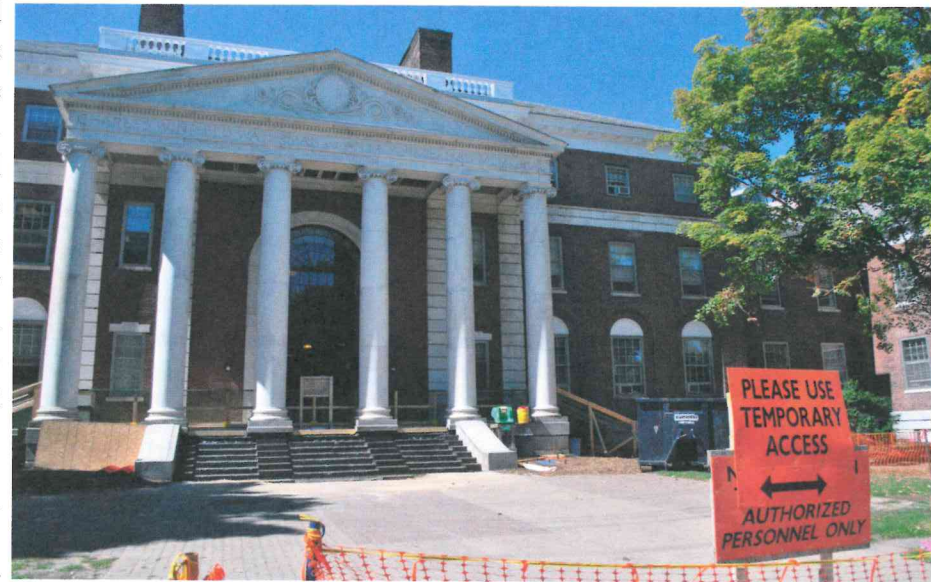
Wheeler House is currently undergoing several preservation updates to be in compliance with the Americans with Disability Act. More information on this project is found in "Wheeler House Renovated" on page 5.

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## WHEELER HOUSE RENOVATED

By Jenna Lapachinski

Once again the students, faculty, and staff that call the Wheeler House home have returned to an improved building. The construction, which took place primarily during the summer and continues into this fall, has improved both the appearance and access to the historic Wheeler House.

A year ago, the Historic Preservation Program held its welcome back potluck on the newly restored veranda on the western façade of the Wheeler House, and this year we returned to even more exciting changes. The wheelchair ramp, which was located on the old veranda, was removed during the restoration and has now been replaced by a new at-grade entrance. This entrance grants access to the Historic Preservation Computer Lab, Conservation Laboratory, and seminar rooms. An ADA-compliant interior lift, located next to the at-grade entrance, now provides wheelchair access to the ground floor of the building wherein the main office and faculty offices are located.

More improvements were made to the lower level of Wheeler House. An energy-efficient HVAC system was installed and new floors were laid in the Historic Preservation Computer Lab. A new stone patio under the original 1842 back porch provides a beautiful new entrance to the interior lift and conservation lab, and a new cement ramp improves access from the lab to the lower level of Wheeler. Work is still underway on the lighting for both the lower level and the main floors. Also, costs were assessed with regard to covering the existing concrete floors in the lower level hallway with necessary flooring to add the finishing touch to a much improved lower level.

The exterior of Wheeler House also underwent a series of improvements. The foundation of Wheeler House was refinished to replicate the original spatter-coat, coursed ashlar appearance of the parging. This work was carried out by Bruno Gubetta of Alpine Restoration, located in Waterbury, Vermont. The restoration of the balustrade, which sits atop the hipped roof of the main block of the Wheeler House, is still underway. The restoration of the prominent architectural feature and the roof

beneath it should be completed by the end of October. A fresh coat of paint on the main door and placement of a permanent plaque listing the departments in Wheeler will complete the exterior renovations. There is also talk of restoring portions of the original landscaping around the building, which was once the envy of prominent Burlington residents.

All the projects at Wheeler House would not have been possible without the cooperation and sensitivity to the building's historic nature exhibited by everyone involved in the project. A special thanks to the Physical Plant staff, especially project coordinators Luce Hillman and Caleb Leland, and to Marty Sienkiewicz of Burlington-based Smith Alvarez Sienkiewicz Architects, who was also responsible for the beautiful west veranda. The improvements to the Wheeler House allow the inhabitants of the buildings a more energy efficient, accessible, and beautiful work environment, and for that we extremely grateful. We now look forward to the next chapter in the rich history of the Wheeler House.

### Hot Off the Press:

**Professor Emeritus and founder of the UVM Historic Preservation Program, Chester H. Liebs, has published a new book titled, *Secrets of Japanese Cities the World Admires: Sustainable-Infrastructure Lessons from Japan*. The new book has been published in Japanese and focuses on the sustainable bicycle use in Japan's cities.**

## VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH A SUCCESS

By Katie Briscoe

September is Vermont Archaeology Month and this year's theme, "Stories from Our Past," encompasses a variety of walks, talks, and hands-on activities. The celebration is presented by the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development and Division for Historic Preservation. We here in the Historic Preservation Department are enthusiastic about the various events taking place across Vermont which bring together our interests in preservation and archaeology.

From September 6th through the 8th volunteers of all ages were able to gain hands-on archaeological experience at a 1000-year-old Native American site at Huntington Falls on Otter Creek. The Northeast Archaeology Research Center of Farmington, Maine took visitors on a tour of the site from which artifacts were found dating 500 -1,000 years old. Some of these artifacts include a fire pit, fire-cracked rocks that were probably used for cooking, projectile points, and flakes of chert and quartz. Archaeologists believe the site was used as a seasonal hunting camp. People would have used the site repeatedly for relatively short periods of time. Barbara Bosworth, a student in Historic Preservation and Addison County resident, attended the archaeological dig. "This archaeology is especially interesting to those of us who live in Addison County because of what it can tell us about the people who lived in our neighborhoods 500 to 1,000 years ago. This site is similar to where I live, on a hill above a waterway. As a child, my daughter found points very much like the ones at Huntington Falls, on a ledge above our brook."

The Vermont Archaeology Heritage Center had its grand opening and open house on September 13th at the Ver-

mont History Center in Barre. Archaeological treasures from all over the state will now have a permanent home at the center. The inaugural exhibit is titled "How Do You Know That? Unraveling the Past through Archaeology." Second year graduate student, Lisa Crompton, attended the grand opening and enjoyed hearing Native American music and a traditional prayer which spoke of bright futures and, for Lisa, helped to evoke emotions of the past. The exhibition included a number of artifacts from different periods of Vermont's history along with information as to where and when the object was discovered and how it was used. For Lisa, the "crowning jewel of the exhibition was the 400-year-old, white pine, dug-out canoe which is featured in its own area."

On September 26th, historic preservation students, professors, and professionals gathered to hear a presentation by second year historic preservation student Katie Briscoe and Ana Vang, a graduate student in geology at UVM. The presentation, titled "Looking Back: The Vermont Interstate System," displayed historic photographs from the Landscape Change Program online archive ([www.uvm.edu/landscape](http://www.uvm.edu/landscape)) to show how the high-

way system creating lasting impacts on Vermont's cultural and physical landscape and Vermonters' everyday lives. Photographs from the Interstate Collection were re-photographed last summer by Katie and Ana and uploaded to the website to offer a before and after view of the Vermont landscape. Their individual research and photographs from the collection will be published in the form of banners, which will tour the state and be presented at conferences, as well as through academic articles.

SEPTEMBER IS  
VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH

*Stories from Our Past*

Pine Bluff Quarry, Barre

Haying, Barre

Milking, Richmond

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## ALUMNI NOTES

Compiled and edited by Melissa M. Smith

In March, **George Born** (1996) passed the qualifying exams for his Ph. D. program at Boston University in American & New England Studies. His major field was architectural history, and his minor fields were cultural landscape history and urban history. George has also been working part-time as an adjunct faculty member/visiting lecturer. This past summer, he taught a summer school course at Boston University on the history of art and architecture in Boston from 1630 to the present. Additionally, the mayor of Somerville appointed George to the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission, and the New England Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians elected him to serve as their Preservation Officer. He has also helped steer classmate **Anna Mod** to a welcoming venue in Boston so that she could give a talk on her new book *Building Modern Houston*.

After working for the Environmental Review team at the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation for six years, **Devin Colman** (2006) was recently named State Architectural Historian. His new responsibilities include managing the National Register, State Register and Certified Local Government programs, as well as promoting historic preservation throughout the state.

After nearly five years working for Historic New England (most recently as a Stewardship Manager monitoring preservation easements), **Caitlin Corkins** (2008) recently accepted a new position as the Tax Credits and Grants Coordinator for the Montpelier-based Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. Caitlin is responsible for administering the federal and state rehabilitation tax credits as well as the Historic Preservation and Preservation Barn Grant programs for the state.

Since leaving the UVM Historic Preservation Program in January 2011, **Brennan Gauthier** (2011) has worked at the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) as a Transportation Archaeologist. His responsibilities are varied and include identifying archaeological resources prior to transportation projects, managing archaeological consultant retainer contracts, and bringing new GIS/GPS technologies into transportation archaeology.

Brennan was involved with the Lake Champlain Bridge project, Tropical Storm Irene recovery efforts, Archaeology Month coordination, as well as the more "routine" transportation projects throughout the state. He recently accepted a full-time position with VTrans.

**Johnny Holdsworth** (2010) accepted a position early this year with the National Park Service (NPS) at Banderlier National Monument in New Mexico and will serve as the masonry preservation foreman for the Vanishing Treasures program, a program that is responsible for preserving ruins and archaeological resources across the southwestern United States. This season Johnny and his team completed masonry preservation projects on Pueblo sites dating from 1350 to 1500 AD. In upcoming weeks, Johnny will continue to work with the Vanishing Treasures program while also devoting time to work with the Monument's Historic Preservation Division, helping to preserve a 1930's era Civilian Conservation Corps historic district. This fall, Johnny will be serving as a NPS Cultural Resources Advisor in the Gulf of Mexico as a part of mitigation work for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

**Lauren Hummer** (2010) was promoted by BiblioLabs to the newly created position of Editorial Manager. In this position she directs the editorial vision for BiblioBoard, an iPad application that presents multimedia anthologies of historical artifacts on a wide range of historic subjects. Prior to joining BiblioLabs, Lauren served as an acquisitions editor for Arcadia Publishing where she acquired and managed the progress of new titles on local history and architecture.

**Anna Mod** (1996) reports from Texas that her first book, *Building Modern Houston*, was well-received and she has taken the associated lecture on the road to DOCOMO-MO chapters in Austin, Boston, and New York. She works as a historic preservation specialist with SWCA Environmental Consultants in Houston, and as an adjunct visiting professor at Prairie View A&M University, at HBCU. Anna is a contributing author to *Buildings of Texas*, vol. 1, a forthcoming two-volume book on Texan architecture that is part of the national series sponsored by the Society of Architectural Historians (October 2012). She is also published in *Cite*, *Texas Architect* and *National Trust for Historic Preservation* publications. "Houston has a preservation ethic! We have 19 protected

historic districts and hundreds of individual landmarks. We don't tear everything down," she reminds all of her audiences.

**Kaitlin O'Shea** (2011) recently began a full-time position with the Vermont Agency of Transportation as a Historic Preservation Specialist following two years of temporary employment in a similar capacity. In June she presented, "Preservation in Pink: How Historic Preservation Relates to You" at the Preservation Trust & Downtown Conference. Kaitlin also recently completed an oral history project for the Town of Hartford on agricultural history.

**Rebecca Reese** (2012) moved to Kansas City, Missouri to work with Rosin Preservation, LLC, as a Preservation Intern. Her responsibilities include Determinations of Eligibilities, National Register nominations, and historic tax credit applications. She continues to learn and hone her skills everyday. Rebecca and her fiancé, Josh, are enjoying the city and are looking forward to what the future brings.

**Liz Warburton** (2012) started a new job as Collections Inventory Specialist at the Preservation Society of Newport County, the society for whom she has worked since returning to Rhode Island in January. Liz is one of two specialists working to conduct an inventory of over 55,000 museum objects across eleven architecturally significant historic properties, including the Breakers and the Isaac Bell House. Earlier this year Liz completed an architectural history of the mid-century modern Rhode Island College campus, located in Providence. This work is scheduled to be published this fall.

Principals **Liisa Reimann** (2007), **Julie Weisgerber** (2007), and **Sarah LeVaun Gaulty** (2008) lead Blue Brick Preservation, Inc. (BBP), a historic preservation consulting firm now in its second year. In the past year, BBP has worked on a number of interesting preservation efforts. Projects have included: helping the historic St. Albans House hotel with the ongoing rehabilitation tax credit; working with the City of Barre on several significant rehabilitation projects; crafting Section 106 reports for alternative energy projects; and administering a series of grants sponsored by Senator Bernie Sanders for the State of Vermont that will benefit preservation efforts

across the state, including the new marquee for the historic Latchis Theater in Brattleboro. In addition to their work with BBP, Liisa, Julie, and Sarah are busy with other preservation endeavors. Julie has now completed one year with FEMA in Philadelphia, helping with the response to Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Sarah is a preservation planner with Heritage Landscapes, LLC, in Vermont. During the past year, her work has included cultural landscape reports for Capitol Square and Senate Parks in Washington, DC, Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo, NY, and the Marie Zimmermann House and Farm in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, PA.

**Cornelius "Keats" Gallagher Jr.** (2001) passed away unexpectedly in July 2012 at the age of 51.

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## STUDENTS EXPLORE NEW ENGLAND

by Andrew Evick

There is never a shortage of field trips conducted for our HP students. This past May, the UVM HP class of 2013 traveled across Champlain Lake and up into the Adirondacks to Keeseville, NY, a small village in Essex County. They were greeted by Steven Engelhart, Executive Director of Adirondack Architectural Heritage, Inc. (AARCH), a non-profit organization. The students were given a tour of both the AARCH's headquarters and an adjacent 19th century mill complex owned by the organization. Subsequent trips to Willsboro and Essex capped off a stimulating day.

This semester, our group will travel to the UVM Research Forest in Jericho, VT, and have a chance to meet with students from the School of Natural Resources' forestry program. The class will have a chance to interpret the forested landscape and document the cultural and natural resources of the forest. Later in the semester we will also travel to the U.S. Forest Service Station in Rochester, VT, to meet with Dave Lacy, archeologist for the U.S. Forest Service Green Mountain and Finger Lakes Region. Cultural resource protection of the Granville Gulf area in the Green Mountain National Forest will be discussed. The cherry on top of that trip will be a visit to Robert Frost's summer cabin in Ripton.



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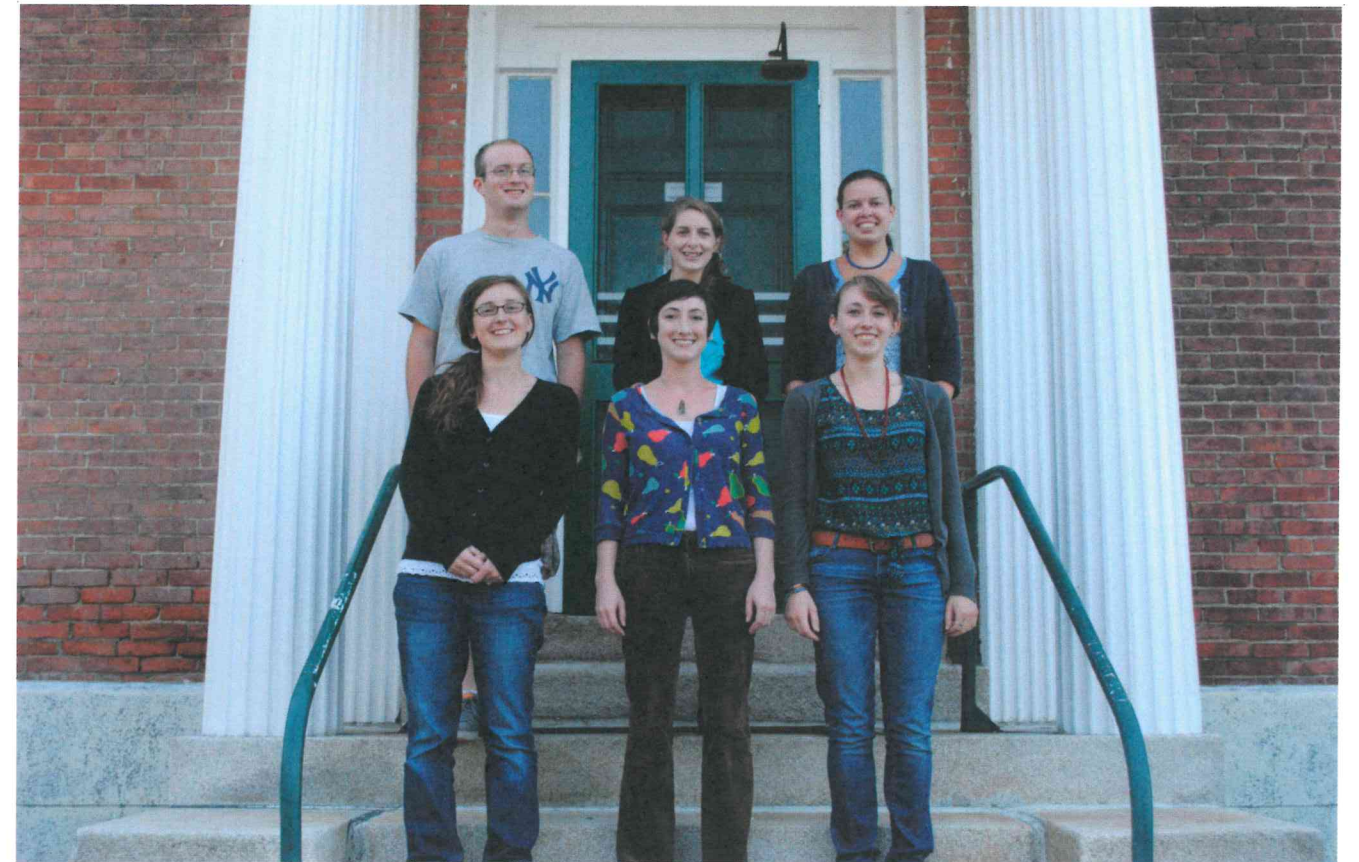
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## THE INCOMING CLASS OF 2014



Left to right: (front) Jessica Goerold, Elissa Portman, Katelyn Lepore  
(back) Daniel Leckie, Courtney Doyle, Samantha Ford

Photo by Katelyn Lepore

Courtney Doyle is originally from the small town of Brasher Falls, New York. She attended SUNY Potsdam and declared a major in archaeology as an undergraduate. After taking a history course, though, Courtney realized her undergraduate career would not be complete without a degree in history as well. After graduating college earlier than anticipated in 2011, Courtney was at a loss of what to do. She decided it would be a great learning experience to volunteer at the local Potsdam Public Museum. During her time there she learned a lot about running a small museum, but more importantly she learned the history of Potsdam Sandstone. Courtney spent the majority of her time at the museum researching the history of buildings that were constructed with Potsdam Sandstone and helped to create an interactive map of those structures. Along the way, she discovered the field of historic preservation and ended up at UVM as a student in the Historic Preservation Program.

Samantha Ford grew up in the rolling Green Mountains of Vermont with a childhood passion for history. After attending two other colleges she returned home to earn a B.A. in History from the University of Vermont in 2011. After graduating Samantha assumed the full time responsibilities of an Assistant Town Clerk in Williston, Vermont. In this position she primarily works as the Recording and Vital Records clerk and assists with several other municipal tasks. While studying in the UVM Historic Preservation Program she hopes to broaden her perspectives to areas outside Vermont. Her goal is to help preserve historical resources so that future generations may enjoy them as well.

Jessica Goerold is from upstate New York and attended college at the University of New Hampshire. In those four short years, she registered for as many credit hours as possible and thoroughly enjoyed immersing herself in a variety of academic pursuits. She has always

had a love for travel, history, art, and architecture, and spent a summer studying abroad in Cambridge, England. She graduated with a B.A. in both European Cultural Studies and Theatre, with a minor in German. Because of those extra classes, she unofficially minored in International Affairs and Art/Architectural History. After college, Jess spent five years working as a scenic painter for theatre and opera. It was a fantastic job wherein there was always something new, challenging, and interesting to work on, but she never planned to make a permanent career out of painting. Fortunately, she stumbled across the Historic Preservation program at UVM at just the right moment. Jess is thrilled to be here in Burlington and is looking forward to finding her niche within the field of preservation.

**D**aniel Leckie is originally from Rocky Point, on Long Island, New York. He obtained his B.A. in American History and Sociology from Stony Brook University in 2010 with a minor in Chinese Studies. As an undergraduate, Dan developed an interest in modern Chinese History and Culture while studying in Shanghai, China in the summer of 2009; however, his real academic passion has always been for U.S. history. Since graduating, he has traveled the U.S. both living and working in various places. Among these places are the Historical Society in Brooklyn, New York; Stratton Mountain Resort in Winhall, Vermont; Eagle Ridge Golf Course in Garner, North Carolina; and back on Long Island where he worked as a house painter. Dan learned of the Historic Preservation Program at UVM in the fall of 2011 after inquiring about possible ways to find work in the cultural tourism industry, particularly within the National Park Service, a longtime dream of his. Working and living in Southern Vermont over the last two winters, he developed a strong love for life in Northern New England, which made UVM a logical choice for graduate study.

**K**ate Lepore is a native Long Islander from Port Jefferson Station, NY. She attended Alfred University where she earned her B.F.A. with a concentration in ceramics and a minor in art education. After graduating in May 2011, she went on to receive her New York State certification to teach art education. Throughout her studies, Kate has always been interested in working with a variety of materials and finding ways to repair and save

anything she can get her hands on. She is attracted to the idea of saving something to be adapted for a new use, while preserving the beauty of the characteristics that distinguish it. She is looking forward to exploring the many facets of the historic preservation field while studying at the University of Vermont.

**E**lissa Portman was raised in Natick, Massachusetts. She graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, in 2010 where she received her B.A. in History. Prior to graduating she began work as a volunteer for the National Park Service Northeastern Region Archaeology Lab. For over two years she helped to restore artifacts and rehouse historical collections from National Parks throughout the northeast. This sparked her interest in the preservation and conservation of America's historical resources and inspired her to apply to the University of Vermont's Historic Preservation program. Her research interests include the domestic arts, foodways, and gender roles in colonial New England. She hopes to use her degree to become a historic museum curator.

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### National Historic Landmark in Danger

by Rachel Peterson

While interning with the State Historic Preservation Office in South Dakota, Rachel Peterson shadowed a National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation meeting to discuss a change in use at Battle Mountain Sanitarium in Hot Springs, South Dakota. Battle Mountain was built in 1907 and has since served as a veterans' hospital. In 2012, it was declared a National Historic Landmark and has been highlighted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a national treasure. The Veterans Administration (VA) oversees the building and the services provided there. They are currently reviewing the serviceability of the building in terms of its ability to provide the best care, code compliance, and accessibility needs. The public fears that this may result in the closure of Battle Mountain and the construction of a new facility outside of their community. What is notable about this case is that the public is incredibly invested in keeping Battle Mountain open and functioning as a veterans' hospital, and they voiced the importance of Battle Mountain to Hot Springs.

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## GRADUATING CLASS OF 2013



Left to right: (front) Jenna Lapachinski, Rachel Peterson, Christine Prevolos  
(back) Melissa Smith, Lucy Hamer, Lisa Crompton, Julie Senk, Andrew Evick, Katie Briscoe, Robyn Sedgwick  
with Professor Robert McCullough

Photo by Robyn Sedgwick

**K**atie Briscoe grew up in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and had a love of history from the start. She received her B.A. in History from Old Dominion University in 2008 and her MA in Archaeology from the University of Liverpool in 2010 where she studied archaeology of the Bronze Age Mediterranean and Near East. This past summer Katie worked as an intern with the Landscape Change Program at UVM. She worked on the program's Interstate Project, a coordinated effort to understand how the construction of the interstate in Vermont from the 1950s to early 1980s altered the cultural and physical landscape of Vermont. She helped to re-photograph historic photos of twelve towns in Vermont, while giving public talks about the project, and interviewing Vermonters affected by the construction of the Interstate. She has enjoyed exploring her interests in architectural history at UVM, and hopes the skills she gains here will allow her to work in the areas of cultural resource management and the surveying and preservation of archaeological sites at a national and international level.

**L**isa Crompton is originally from New Rochelle, New York, and received an undergraduate degree in Studio Art and Art History from the State University of New York at Albany. Her summer internship was with a local dry stonewall mason who taught her the traditional trade of stonemasonry; She also transcribed oral histories and conducted her own research concerning the social impact of stonewalls on the state of Vermont. This past spring she met with the director of Lyndhurst Mansion, a National Trust historic site in Tarrytown, New York, to learn about budgeting and fundraising plans for the architecturally significant site. This semester she will be working with Camp Abnaki to help them organize over a century's worth of camp related artifacts and develop a comprehensive plan for their interpretation in a future exhibition.

**A**ndrew Evick comes from the town of Waynesburg in southwestern Pennsylvania. He graduated from West Virginia University in 2008 with a B.A. in History.

After a couple of years managing his family's beverage distribution business and working at Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater, Andrew came to UVM with a determination to learn traditional building trades and building pathology. This past summer Andrew worked as an intern with Preservation Unlimited, a full-service contracting company that is owned by former UVM HP alum James Duggan and which specializes in traditional building trades. The projects included masonry restoration at the Vermont State House, plaster repair in New Hampshire, and log cabin preservation in Franklin, VT, amongst many other projects. Andrew has also taken classes in welding and modern plaster techniques while in Burlington. After graduation, he will join his wife in Pittsburgh, PA.

Lucy Hamer originally hails from Bedford, New Hampshire. In 2010, she graduated from Randolph-Macon Woman's College, where she studied French, Russian and Comparative Politics. After completing her degree, Lucy taught primary school English in France before deciding to come to the University of Vermont to continue her studies. Lucy hopes to ultimately use her training in Historic Preservation in the fields of community planning and development. For her summer internship, Lucy worked alongside William Jenney at the Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site in Plymouth Notch, Vermont. During her internship, she completed a research project on the historic Wilder House, currently home to the site's restaurant, in addition to helping visitors learn about the life and legacy of Calvin Coolidge in the Museum and Education Center.

Jenna Lapachinski is originally from Turners Falls, Massachusetts. She attended the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, where she graduated in 2010 with a B.A. in History. This past spring Jenna traveled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she conducted research on the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia. She focused primarily on their Neighborhood Preservation Program and Historic Properties Repair Program, both of which relate to her interest in community preservation. Over the summer Jenna interned with Judy Hayward and Historic Windsor, Inc., where she focused her research on the stained glass windows in four of the local churches and also worked to gain landmark status for the Stephen Jacob House in Windsor, Vermont. This fall she will

work with Historic Harrisville to update their reports on 17 buildings on which they hold covenants. She will also help develop innovative methods for tracking the statuses of these important buildings. Jenna looks forward to completing her degree and working with communities to help recognize and preserve their historic resources.

Christine Prevolos is originally from Brookfield, Illinois, a community roughly ten miles southwest of Chicago. She graduated from Illinois State University in 2009 with a degree in History and a minor in Spanish. Christine is excited to complete the Historic Preservation program here at UVM so she can go on to use the knowledge and skills she has acquired to engulf herself further in active preservation. Her studies have nurtured a variety of her interests, but what intrigues her most about preservation is the impact it can have towards strengthening communities and improving land sustainability. It is important to her to help communities recognize that preserving their buildings and structures will not only strengthen a place's identity, but it will instill a sense of pride and engender future generations' involvement in preservation. This past summer, Christine interned with the Central Park Conservancy as a member of the Monuments Conservation staff. Throughout this internship, she experienced first-hand how both the conservation of public art and whole-place preservation has positively impacted one of the nation's largest cities and greatest social landscape resources.

Rachel Peterson is originally from Mankato, Minnesota. She graduated from the College of Saint Benedict with a B.A. in History and Gender Studies with a minor in Art History. During her senior year Rachel studied abroad in Rome and Athens, and through that experience gained an even greater appreciation for both preserving the built environment and its importance to cultural memory. This past summer Rachel completed an internship with the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office. She was in charge of updating the records for a commercial historic district in Spearfish, South Dakota, which included re-surveying and re-photographing the district, as well as rewriting its nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, Rachel completed a series of case studies highlighting rehabilitated historic properties throughout the state and was able to observe a variety of field experi-

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ences. Outside of her studies, Rachel enjoys running, yoga, and eating good food with good friends.

Robyn Sedgwick grew up in Hyde Park, New York. She completed her undergraduate degree at Goucher College, in Towson, Maryland, where she received her B.A. in American Studies and History, with a minor in Historic Preservation. Growing up in the historic Hudson Valley, she was able to volunteer and intern at Historic Huguenot Street in New Paltz, NY, where for four years she transcribed diary entries of a mid-to-late nineteenth century woman from New York City; these transcriptions can be found in an online exhibit. She spent this past summer interning at the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in their Bureau for Historic Preservation where she worked on several research projects. Robyn's love for history began in 10th grade, and from there blossomed into a love for historic architecture. It was through her search for undergraduate schools that she learned of historic preservation, and since then has been working to acquire the skills necessary to save historic buildings. Besides her love of historic buildings, Robyn enjoys singing, reading, and photography.

## STUDYING BURLINGTON'S HISTORY THROUGH POSTCARDS

By Daniel Leckie

Each year, incoming Historic Preservation students at the University of Vermont take part in a special project for Professor Thomas Visser's HP 206 Course, "Researching Historic Structures and Sites." This project sheds light on certain areas of Vermont's vibrant cultural and historic resources, and preserves them in an online database as a reference for future preservation students and the interested public. Past projects include the Chittenden County Barn Census, Fall 2009-Fall 2010, and research on the history of the UVM Green area of campus, conducted and completed last fall.

With the successes of past projects in mind, the class of 2013 will research the history of Burlington using the UVM Bailey-Howe Library's collection of Vermont postcards as a reference point. The students will divide Vermont's largest city on a geographical basis. Preliminary "districts" will include the UVM campus, Church

Melissa Smith has been a resident of Burlington, Vermont, since 2008 when she moved to the city to serve as a cultural liaison for the Somali Bantu refugee community. With a background in cultural anthropology and historical archeology, Melissa's academic interests and course work have focused on multivocality in the interpretation of history, and in cultural heritage management, namely exploring issues of diversity in preservation. Melissa spent her summer researching the Turner family homestead in Grafton, VT, and in conducting an architectural analysis of Birchdale Camp as a part of her Master's thesis. Her work has been graciously supported and aided by the Preservation Trust of Vermont, the Vermont Folklife Center, the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. (VELCO). Melissa's personal interests include running (she's currently training for a 10K), hiking, kayaking, and managing her small city "farm," complete with free-range chickens. She hopes to finally get a chance to learn how to ski this winter, if it will only snow.

Street, Main Street, College Street, the Lake Champlain Waterfront, the Old North End, and the Winooski riverfront. The students have already set the bar quite high, and are attempting to develop comprehensive research on roughly twelve different postcard views each.

With the help of Prudence Doherty and the staff in Special Collections, the students will use a combination of sources including Sanborn maps, city directories, and photograph collections to complete their research. The goal is to develop an extensive narrative history of these particular buildings, landmarks, and districts in order to illuminate the richness of Burlington's history. This exciting project will be completed sometime in early December, and will be available for review, alongside all of the past projects, on the University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program's website at ([www.uvm.edu/histpres](http://www.uvm.edu/histpres)).

## STUDENTS CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

By Christine Prevolos

This fall, second year students will showcase their education and training to the public through Prof. McCullough's course, "Historic Preservation 302: Community Preservation Projects." In this course, students are given the opportunity to pick from a list of projects with members of the community involved in non-profit preservation initiatives. The projects offer flexibility in execution and include a wide range of topics, delving into everything from hands-on preservation practices, to writing interpretive brochures, to administering and creating Vermont rest-stop exhibitions.

Before McCullough's involvement, the course projects were mainly developed by the students. They were responsible for finding sponsors, determining the parameters of the projects, and executing the details. Although this resulted in some successes, such as laying the foundation for getting the Mad River Glenn ski area on the National Register of Historic Places, it also fostered some shortcomings. According to McCullough, the course needed more "direction and administration" because, without a supervising figure, pertinent details were sometimes overlooked. For example, in one class' case, "deadlines were ultimately missed which resulted in a select few hanging back and completing unfinished work on behalf of the whole class." This prompted changes in how the course projects would be administered.

Since making changes in the course, McCullough continues to emphasize his desire for "student freedom," stating, "it is important to advocate connections with historic preservation and the community" and, by letting students do this according to their own likes, interests, and strengths, they're ultimately more successful in creating these connections. By giving students the choice, individual strengths can be highlighted. As long as students continue to build strong relationships with area

preservationists, the field will continue to grow within our communities. Here is a breakdown of the projects the current second years will undertake this semester:

**Andrew Evick** will work with Ron Wanamaker of Preservation Burlington conducting a survey of neglected properties in Burlington. Demolition by neglect has become a difficult problem in communities that try to protect historic properties through local design review and historic district ordinances. Tracking these buildings is difficult, and this survey will provide an important starting

point for reversing this unfortunate practice. The end product will ideally be a field guide to Burlington's neglected properties.

**Katie Briscoe's** project involves research she started during her summer internship while working with the Landscape Change Program here at UVM. Using digitized maps archived at the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), Katie is creating a catalogue

of acquired land and buildings that were demolished due to federal Interstate construction from the 1950s to 1980s. She hopes to pair this information with photos from the Landscape Change Program archive ([www.uvm.edu/landscape](http://www.uvm.edu/landscape)) to understand the real impacts of the Interstate on both Vermont's citizens and the physical landscape of Vermont.

**Christine Prevolos** will create a coloring book that will highlight Historic Burlington, a project made possible by Mary O'Neil, the Senior Planner at the Burlington Department of Planning and Zoning. The idea is to identify residences, civic buildings, historic sites, and resources that are representative of Burlington, and then create il-



*An historic grange in Waterbury Center, Vermont.*

*Photo by Julie Senk*

## STUDENTS CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

By Christine Prevolos

This fall, second year students will showcase their education and training to the public through Prof. McCullough's course, "Historic Preservation 302: Community Preservation Projects." In this course, students are given the opportunity to pick from a list of projects with members of the community involved in non-profit preservation initiatives. The projects offer flexibility in execution and include a wide range of topics, delving into everything from hands-on preservation practices, to writing interpretive brochures, to administering and creating Vermont rest-stop exhibitions.

Before McCullough's involvement, the course projects were mainly developed by the students. They were responsible for finding sponsors, determining the parameters of the projects, and executing the details. Although this resulted in some successes, such as laying the foundation for getting the Mad River Glenn ski area on the National Register of Historic Places, it also fostered some shortcomings. According to McCullough, the course needed more "direction and administration" because, without a supervising figure, pertinent details were sometimes overlooked. For example, in one class' case, "deadlines were ultimately missed which resulted in a select few hanging back and completing unfinished work on behalf of the whole class." This prompted changes in how the course projects would be administered.

Since making changes in the course, McCullough continues to emphasize his desire for "student freedom," stating, "it is important to advocate connections with historic preservation and the community" and, by letting students do this according to their own likes, interests, and strengths, they're ultimately more successful in creating these connections. By giving students the choice, individual strengths can be highlighted. As long as students continue to build strong relationships with area

preservationists, the field will continue to grow within our communities. Here is a breakdown of the projects the current second years will undertake this semester:

**Andrew Evick** will work with Ron Wanamaker of Preservation Burlington conducting a survey of neglected properties in Burlington. Demolition by neglect has become a difficult problem in communities that try to protect historic properties through local design review and historic district ordinances. Tracking these buildings is difficult, and this survey will provide an important starting point for reversing this unfortunate practice. The end product will ideally be a field guide to Burlington's neglected properties.



An historic grange in Waterbury Center, Vermont.

Photo by Julie Senk

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ustrations, puzzles, and images that cohesively fit into a coloring book that will be distributed to local Burlington school districts and businesses. The goal is to give children and adults in Burlington the opportunity to engage in fun and interesting activities that connect them to their surroundings and foster an appreciation and sense of pride in the built environment.

**Robyn Sedgwick** will work for the Ben's Mill Trust in Barnet, Vermont, researching their late nineteenth-/early twentieth-century cider press, in order to provide the Trust with information on the history and operation of the press. The cider press is a section of the mill which dates back to 1872. The mill also contains another section consisting of a woodworking shop. Currently, the woodworking machinery, driven by a belt shaft which receives its power from water backed up by a gas engine, is still in working order. The cider press is also powered by water. However, the mill dam that provides the water to power the turbine is currently in disrepair. Before the death of the Mill's owner, Ben Thresher, in 1995, the mill ran year-round and serviced both the mill's community and several nearby communities.

**Melissa Smith** will be working with Burlington City Planning on an interpretive pamphlet. The Burlington Walk and Bike Council is interested in developing a brochure that expands current information about the city's bike paths and pedestrian ways and adds interpretations of cultural resources that are visible along these routes. This information will help increase cyclists' and pedestrians' awareness of the city's important resources. It will include various cultural and historic sites found on bike and pedestrian paths.

**Rachel Peterson** and **Lucy Hamer** will team up and travel to the Chaffee Art Center in Rutland. The Art Center is housed in a 19th century Queen Anne and is listed on the National Register. It was originally the residence of the prominent Rutland businessman George Chaffee. After the Chaffees vacated, the house was closed until 1961 when it was reopened for the Rutland Bicentennial Celebration. The Rutland Area Art Association purchased the building in 1982 because although no one lived there, the Chaffees still owned the property. Today the Center is thriving and is looking to Rachel and Lucy to create an interpretive brochure to highlight its interesting history and its important architectural features.

**Lisa Crompton** will explore the archival inventories and create a plan to interpret the information for Camp Abnaki. Camp Abnaki is a YMCA-affiliated boys camp that sits on Lake Champlain in North Hero, Vermont. Founded in 1901, it has a rich history of supporting young boys with a camping experience for over 100 years. Throughout the past century, the program has collected a wealth of photos, documents, sporting goods, and other artifacts that are currently in storage. Lisa will identify, stabilize, and interpret the history of the items in storage and then take inventory by categorizing the significant resources. Time permitting; she will create a plan for an exhibit or interpretive display for future campers to engage in the Camp's history.

**Jenna Lapachinski** will re-visit a site that the students explored on a field trip during their first semester in the program in Harrisville, New Hampshire. Historic Harrisville retains some of the highest historic integrity and demonstrates what a small New England mill town looked like and how it functioned. Historic Harrisville Inc. protects almost twenty individual buildings through covenants. Most of the covenants have not been updated in more than a decade, therefore an updated report and inspection is needed. Jenna will develop and update the forms and will work to develop a tracking method that can be used to monitor the status of these buildings.

**Julie Senk** will survey all the granges in Vermont for their inclusion in the Vermont barn census. The Vermont barn census is an ongoing project the State Historic Preservation Office has worked on for a number of years; a few UVM HP alumni currently work there. Julie partnered with some of the alumni and the State Historic Offices this summer to perform work which she plans to continue through this project. She will then take that information and conduct research to develop a more in-depth historical context that can hopefully be included in the Vermont Historic Preservation Plan's "Our Agricultural Heritage."

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*Southwick Hall, located on the Redstone Campus, designed by the architectural firm McKim, Mead, and White in 1934. Maintenance for the building has been an ongoing project at the University of Vermont.*

*Photo by Robyn Sedgwick*