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Preservation Meets Sustainability: Symposium Thoughts

By Kaitlin O’Shea

On June 25, 2010, the University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program, the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, and the University of Vermont Campus Planning Services hosted the symposium: Modernist Architecture Comes of Age: Preservation Meets Sustainability. Speakers addressed modernist architecture in terms of sustainability and functionality in the 21st century.

The speakers at the symposium included Christine Madrid French of the National Trust’s Modern & Recent Past Program, Professor Glenn Andres of Middlebury College, James Jacobs of the National Park Service, Barbara Campagna of the National Trust, Mike Jackson of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, David Fixler of Einhorn, Yaffee Prescott Architecture & Engineering P.C., and Theodore Prudon of Prudon & Partners LLP and author of the book Preservation of Modern Architecture. Each speaker presented their subject with authority and accessibility, relating to previous speakers without offering redundant information or theories, and left the audience with important questions, thoughts, and lessons.

Christine Madrid French opened the day with a reference to the Potanico Proclamation, that preservation and policy makers should ensure general reuse of buildings. She stated that we
GREETINGS FROM WHEELER HOUSE

Welcome to the University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program’s newsletter, an annual edition written, edited, designed, and produced by graduate students in the program.

As you will see from their biographies included in this newsletter, the graduate students enrolled in the Historic Preservation Program at the University of Vermont bring a wide range of academic backgrounds, work experiences, and preservation interests. Examples of various individual and team student projects are described in the following articles.

After the success of last year’s graduate student participation in the Vermont Barn Census research project, we are grateful to acknowledge the continued support that allows our incoming graduate students to participate in this special research opportunity. This funding is being provided from a Preserve America grant through the National Park Service to the State of Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

We are very excited about recent efforts by a group of our alumni to reinvigorate the UVM Historic Preservation Program Alumni Association, Inc. We also appreciate the willingness of our alumni and other practicing professional preservationists to share their knowledge with our students as guest speakers, project advisors, and information resources.

With major conservation work being done around Wheeler House, the 1842 home of the Historic Preservation Program and History Department, students, faculty, and staff are observing a range of historic preservation activities first hand this year.

Finally, we would also like to sincerely thank 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 may be sent to the UVM Historic Preservation Program Fund, Wheeler House, University of Vermont, 133 South Prospect Street, Burlington, VT 05405, or online through the University of Vermont’s Development Office at http://alumni.uvm.edu/giving/

Prof. Thomas Visser, Director, Historic Preservation Program

UVM HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM RECEIVES DONATION

By Paul Wackrow

In early September the Historic Preservation Program received a donation of resources related to the study of landscape conservation from Nora Mitchell, Director and Founder of the National Park Service’s Conservation Study Institute. The donation comprises thirty-six boxes of materials relating to environmental conservation, cultural resource management, architecture, and landscape architecture. Among the resources donated are books, academic journals, films, and studies originally used as resources during the formation of the Conservation Study Institute.

While Nora’s career with the National Park Service began with a focus on natural resources, she became interested in cultural resources after participating in an exchange program in England. In 1992 she helped establish the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, with the goal of helping parks protect and preserve their cultural landscapes. In 1998, she established the Conservation Study Institute to help the National Park Service look at the subject of conservation on a larger scale, by incorporating natural and cultural history, and encouraging community engagement. The Institute is based out of the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in Woodstock, Vermont.

The collection includes materials acquired through the Institute’s research of landscape conservation in England and Canada, as well as a number of materials from Italy. The Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park maintains a strong interest in conservation practices in Italy due to George Perkins Marsh’s service as the first American ambassador to Italy from 1861 until his death in 1882.

Nora has been a speaker for historic preservation classes at UVM in the past, and says she hopes the donation will act as “another tool to encourage interest in landscape preservation.” Professor Thomas Visser, program director, said of the donation “The Historic Preservation Program at the University of Vermont greatly appreciated this generous gift of library material related to landscape conservation by Nora Mitchell, founder of the Conservation Study Institute.” The materials will soon be organized and made available for use by historic preservation students in Wheeler House.
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE INSTITUTE - PLANTS MEET PRESERVATION

By Jen Parsons

When landscape architects, historic garden caretakers, historic preservationists, and general Thomas Jefferson enthusiasts come together at Monticello and the University of Virginia for the Historic Landscape Institute, what kind of heated discussions may ensue? For one, an ongoing dialogue of what constitutes a true “ha-ha”: landscape trenches used to prevent livestock from passing, usually containing a burm, which may or may not conceal a fence from the sight line of the main homestead. No, they aren’t just for Capability Brown’s landscapes, you know. Jefferson and several other plantation owners had their own rudimentary ha-has. But do their unfenced versions count? Among this group, healthy debate ensued. Two weeks of historic gardens and landscapes in Virginia is about as fun as you can get—if you’re into that sort of thing. Of course, I am.

Thomas Jefferson’s unrelenting optimism as a gardener led him to plant and try to cultivate nearly anything he could get his hands on: artichokes were grown in his early American garden, and his disappointing attempts to raise a productive olive grove led him to experiment with and declare sesame oil the American oil. In fact, possibly one of my favorite things about Thomas Jefferson is just how often he did not succeed; it is worth noting that with a plantation of enslaved individuals and one of the best collections of books in the newly formed United States, he still could not get certain plants to grow. As any gardener knows—that’s a great comfort. His oft quoted statement appeals to us because it makes us feel better about our own flails in the dirt: “Though I’m an old man, I’m but a young gardener.”

Nearly two weeks at the Historic Landscape Institute offered more gems than those Jeffersonian. Anne Spencer, a Harlem Renaissance poet, maintained a lovely Arts & Crafts garden at her modest home in Lynchburg. Heirloom roses line a walkway which opens to a lush cottage garden, a trellised grape arbor, and a small formal garden with pool. This accessible level of home beautification, without the excess of a giant plantation, perhaps inspired me the most—an appreciation of garden design can be cultivated in very simple spaces.

In addition, we were able to work with and learn from those who maintain the gardens at Monticello, the Center for Historic Plants (also housed at Monticello), as well as lectures by the Garden Club of Virginia and other noted landscape architects. In fact, if you happen to purchase any Calendula at Monticello next year—let me know! I harvested that seed to save!

Sleeping accommodations at UVA in Thomas Jefferson’s lawn rooms lent plenty of time for admiring Jefferson’s serpentine garden walls...while on the long walk to the rest room, a modern amenity not accounted for in Jefferson’s early plans for the University. Dewy mornings, when the sunlight crept in with a dense blanket of Virginia heat, I wandered the Lawn and among the pavilion gardens, each with a unique plan and flora. Here, I understood a serenity of Thomas Jefferson’s classical designs that no lecture or book can express. So I urge you, if the opportunity presents, let yourself tend Jefferson’s gardens.

A view down the vegetable gardens at Monticello.

Photo: Jen Parsons
Vermont Barn Census

By Tonya Loveday

As the leaves begin to change across the beautiful Vermont landscape, the students in Tom Visser’s HP 206 course have the unique opportunity to enjoy the scenery while doing research. The ten graduate students in the class will take part in the Vermont Barn Census, a project that began two years ago with the goal of recording the agricultural structures that stand as hallmarks of the state’s history. Whereas last year’s students surveyed towns statewide, this year’s class will focus specifically on towns within Chittenden County. Each student will be responsible for documenting the barns in their designated town in an effort to add a significant amount of data to the census.

The Vermont Barn Census is open to public volunteers of all ages who can submit their findings and photographs to the project’s website, located under the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. In addition to this type of documentation, the Historic Preservation graduate students will conduct historical research on their assigned towns. Early in the semester, the class toured the Special Collections Department of the Bailey/Howe Library where they were introduced to the rich collection of historic records including the Beers atlases, Walling maps and Child gazetteers. Through the use of such archival materials, along with field research data, the students will develop narratives that document the agricultural history of Chittenden County.

The results of the Barn Census and the additional work done by the graduate students will be substantial. A state-wide survey of barns has not been completed in Vermont since the 1970s. After that time, many factors, from neglect to weather damage, have altered the integrity and existence of barns across the state. The Census will play an important role in allowing preservationists to devise plans and programs aimed at maintaining Vermont’s agricultural buildings.

The Vermont Barn Census was developed by the state’s historic preservation community with the goal of raising awareness of the agricultural buildings that stand as reminders of Vermont’s past. Many organizations are participating in the Vermont Barn Census including the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program, Historic Windsor’s Preservation Education Institute, Save Vermont Barns, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, and Preservation Trust of Vermont.

If interested in participating in the Vermont Barn Census, please visit www.uvm.edu/~barn for more details.
cannot build our way out of an energy crisis; we must conserve our way out of it. The biggest obstacle to these missions is the gap in the translation between public knowledge and scholarship.

Public knowledge and scholarship – both in terms of education - begin with understanding how to identify and how to define modernist architecture, a subject which is not a person’s first association with Vermont. Professor Glenn Andres gave an overview of the context of modernist architecture in Vermont and explained how the architects were sensitive to the land. Therefore, it is important to understand the original aesthetic of the architecture. A cautionary tale remains: good and poor examples exist of all architectural styles. Similarly, it is important to evaluate when modern additions may contribute to a property’s historic significance, James Jacobs added. Later in the day, David Fixler addressed modernism, including its attention to the natural world and its ideas of design.

Moving beyond the context for modernist architecture, Barbara Campagna addressed challenges of sustainability and modernist architecture. One challenge is the idea that everything historic was once something new. Another challenge is understanding climate and region as it affects the durability of materials. A familiar challenge is the existence of disposable buildings, massive complexes, and unattractive buildings. The most interesting point of Campagna’s talk addressed substitution (of modernist materials, for example) v. integrity. If the glass on the Glass House has to be replaced, is it still preservation? When do the “rules” of preservation need to be altered?

Are the applications and definitions of preservation adjusted with the modernist era?

Beyond preservation and sustainability theory there is the actual practice and application. Mike Jackson discussed the many energy rating systems available, of which LEED is the most popular. The biggest concern now is that none of them give additional points for reusing historic buildings. How can teardowns lead to a green rated, sustainable building? Jackson suggested old ideas for energy savings such cisterns and clotheslines. Concerning materials, Theodore Prudon brought up maintenance issues, the fact that modern materials are often not as durable and therefore require more maintenance. Of course, this circles back to sustainability: how can less durable materials be sustainable?

The noticeable common ground between all of the speakers was the lesson that the study and implication of modernist architecture reaches beyond architectural style and subjective opinions regarding its aesthetics. The issues of modernist architecture, historic preservation, and sustainability cannot be answered in a one day symposium however, the success and benefit of the symposium lies in the fact that the speakers identified the issues, problems, and successes. There is a blurred line between environmentalism, sustainability, and historic preservation (particularly of modernist architecture – what is now just becoming historic). The collaboration and understanding between the three is the next hurdle. The UVM Modernist Architecture Symposium provided an excellent forum for professionals, students, and advocates to hear and consider these issues.
A Visit to Keeseville, New York

By Meghan Bezio

Last May, as a part of the Historic Preservation Practice Methods course, the class of 2011 had the opportunity to take a field trip across the lake to the quaint towns of Keeseville and Peru in Essex County, NY. The course itself offered students practical training, which focused on National Register nominations, historic sites and structures surveys, and rehabilitation investment tax credits. The purpose of the field trip was to observe how surveys are conducted in rural communities.

The class first met with Steven Engelhart, alumnus of the UVM Historic Preservation Program and executive director of Adirondack Architectural Heritage. The class had lunch next to the 1843 Stone Arch Bridge and discussed AARCH’s role in preservation in the Adirondack Region of Upstate New York. AARCH was in the process of rehabilitating a historic mill complex on the Ausable River, which it had purchased in 2008. The mill was originally built for the Ausable Horse Nail Company, who operated in Keeseville from the 1860s through the early part of the twentieth century. The organization moved into its new offices in the Stone Office Building in the early part of 2010 and is planning to use the other buildings in the mill complex for exhibits, classroom and meeting space, and a resource center.

AARCH hopes that the revitalization of this historic mill site and adaptive reuse of the buildings in the complex will contribute to the vitality of Keeseville’s downtown, an area which was once a thriving business center but has recently been unable to keep tenants in its commercial buildings. When asked to describe Keeseville’s downtown, long-time resident Lynn Bezio came up with one word: vacant.

After a walkthrough of some of the mill structures and more conversations with the AARCH staff, the class headed toward the town of Peru, guided by Mr. Engelhart and other members of the AARCH staff. The country roads leading from Keeseville to Peru offered plenty of distractions for an eager class of preservationists. The group vehicles came to a halt at the Keese Homestead, located at the corner of Harkness and Union Roads in the town of Ausable. The Keese Homestead, originally built c. 1795 as a part of a Quaker community called the Union and now owned by Lincoln and Ann Sunderland, is an incredible collection of residences and outbuildings related to the Union and the founders of Keeseville. The large stone residence built in 1837 was just one of the many architectural wonders we discovered during our tour of the homestead. A smaller frame residence, a number of timber framed barns, and the largest barn any one in the group had ever seen were also discovered on the AARCH site. Given the class’ preoccupation with barns, this detour was easily the best part of our trip (visit http://www.uvm.edu/~hp206/2009/admin/ to see graduate student work on the Vermont Barn Census).

After the Keese Homestead tour, graciously given by Mr. Sunderland, the group all piled back into the vehicles to continue on to the town of Peru, where they reviewed the proposed historic district boundaries of the town’s commercial center.

Having spent the first five years of my life in Peru, I felt particularly close to the project and thoroughly enjoyed learning more about the evolution of the tiny town. Special thanks to Steven Engelhart for making our trip across the lake both exciting and instructive.
Welcome Back to Josh Phillips and Paul Wyncoop

By Liz Warburton

Students this semester will have the opportunity to learn from Josh Phillips and Paul Wyncoop, both alumni of the UVM Historic Preservation program. Phillips’ experience with the Middlebury Land Trust will combine with Wyncoop’s practice at Bread Loaf Corporation to provide students with a well-rounded assessment of the economic side of historic preservation.

Phillips and Wyncoop are collaborating to continue the Development Economics course originally taught by the late Professor Roger Lang. The goals for the course include building a relationship between the development sector and preservation and presenting the technology, issues, and tools necessary for a modern day career in preservation. After completing the course, students will have experience writing economic pro formas and working with code requirements for development. Students will consult with real estate agents, contractors, and development professionals to develop their consultation and planning skills.

Speaking of the course, Prof. Phillips says it is “crucial for all preservationists to understand the logistics of the development process, and it’s exciting as an instructor to try to stay abreast of the new ways that people are making preservation work.”

ALUMNI NOTES

Over the last year, Amanda Ciampolillo (‘08) has been places. Erie. Nashville. Scranton. Chicago. Denver. DC. Her job with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) keeps her on the move while she performs environmental and historic preservation compliance for the agency. And don’t think it’s all disasters. Amanda’s been involved with Recovery Act funding for new fire stations and preparedness projects for new warning systems. But the most complicated project from the preservation side of the house has turned out to be the acquisition and demolition of two houses in Havaco, WV. Nestled in the coal-rich mountains of southern West Virginia, these two residences are particularly flood-prone. The undertaking would permanently remove the houses from the floodplain and pay for the owners to relocate. Currently, the two houses have been determined potentially eligible for the National Register as part of a greater coal-related National Historic District. These structures are indicative of coal camps settlements throughout the region, which were erected quickly, cheaply and uniformly. Amanda continues to work through the Section 106 process with the WV SHPO.

Michael Plummer (‘09) is the Preservationist/Facilities Manager at the Jane Addams/Hull-House Museum in Chicago. The museum has recently undergone renovations and has reopened with a new permanent exhibition entitled “Redefining Democracy: Jane Addams and the Hull House Settlement.” In addition, Plummer has been recently appointed to the Oak Park (IL) Historic Preservation Commission.

Douglas Porter (‘01) works as an architectural conservator, directing grant-funded research and training projects in cooperation with academic, federal and non-profit partners. Recent projects include structural stabilization of the Breeding Barn and conservation of built elements in the Formal Garden at Shelburne Farms; investigation of structural and decoratively painted wood at Mission San Miguel; curriculum development for a Heritage Preservation Engineering program; stabilization of the Las Flores Adobe NHL, and; conservation of architectural redwood at Scotty’s Castle and structural evaluation of the aerial tramway in the Keane Wonder Mine in Death Valley National Park.

Paul Wyncoop and Josh Phillips, both UVM HP grads, are teaching HP204 this fall. Paul informs us that the class is going great, with 25 students from both years in our class. The students have formed 6 groups and are working on a variety of redevelopment projects, from Vergennes to St. Albans. The students are particularly enthusiastic and preliminary presentations are very promising. Our focus continues to be on the redevelopment of historic buildings utilizing a variety of funding sources.
Mary Claire Andwood hails from Setauket, New York and comes straight from earning her B.A. at Hillsdale College, where she majored in History and Art. While an undergraduate she explored her interest in preservation in two theses: an honors thesis that explored the relationship between ecclesiastical architecture and community through a study of a mid-twentieth-century gothic-inspired cathedral, and an art history thesis examining the artistic and historic significance of Civil War photographs as tools for preservation. She has traveled extensively throughout the U.S. and abroad, including opportunities to witness archaeological fieldwork in Israel and Turkey. Recently, she worked as a policy intern at the Civil War Preservation Trust where she updated the Civil War Discovery Trails website, recorded sesquicentennial activities, and facilitated preservation policy initiatives regarding the “Wilderness Walmart.” Prior experience includes an internship at the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum where she photo-documented restoration grant proposals and worked with the ethnographic collection.

Matthew Corbett, originally from Hallowell, Maine, received his B.A. in Studio Art with a minor in Art History from the University of Maine in 2006. While earning his degree, Matthew volunteered at the Maine State Museum where he gained knowledge in Conservation and Restoration. Coming from a historic town, Matthew felt a connection to the efforts made by those in the preservation field and thus found himself in the University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program. It proved to be the perfect combination of his interests in architecture, planning, law, history, as well as a plethora of other disciplines. In his spare time, Matthew continues to practice and hone his art skills in painting and drawing.

Constance Kent grew up in Essex, Vermont. She attended Hamilton College and graduated in 2008 with a B.A. in mathematics and a minor in studio art. At the beginning of her college career Constance thought that she would eventually end up in architecture school. However, after taking a few architecture courses she realized that she was far more interested in
learning about the histories of pre-existing structures than she was in designing new ones, which led her to the University of Vermont’s Historic Preservation Program. In her spare time Constance enjoys hiking, sewing, and dancing traditional dances from Great Britain and America.

Tonya Loveday, originally from Guiderland, New York, has spent the past four years living in Burlington as a student at the University of Vermont. She graduated from UVM in 2010 with a B.A. in European History, and a minor in Business Administration. During the early years of her undergraduate studies, Tonya discovered her passion for Holocaust studies and Polish history. She is hoping that the skills she develops through the Historic Preservation Graduate Program will help her one day work in preservation related to those fields.

Meredith Maus is originally from Long Island, New York. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of New Hampshire with a B.A. in History and a B.A. in Anthropology. She decided she wanted to pursue a career in the National Park Service after she took a summer course covering policy in the National Parks in Alaska. She came across the Historic Preservation Program at the University of Vermont while researching jobs and internships and realized this program encompassed her interests. She looks forward to learning about the growing preservation field and finding her niche within it.

Danielle Meiners grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio. She completed her undergraduate studies at Xavier University in May 2010 where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and French with minors in International Studies and Political Science. At Xavier, she was a member and senior-captain of the Women’s Cross Country and Track and Field teams, where she competed in long-distance and steeplechase races. During her studies at Xavier, she spent an entire year researching and assembling two museum exhibits that were displayed in downtown Cincinnati focusing on the history of sugar in the United States, as well as the medicinal uses of sugar throughout history. Working on these exhibits along with an innate respect and appreciation for the National Park system have contributed to her interest in historic preservation, which excitedly led her to UVM’s program.

Eric Nystrom grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He has had a lifelong interest in maps and Colonial American history, especially the American Revolutionary War era. This led him to Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), where he obtained, in 2010, a Bachelor of Arts in GIS/Cartography. He also received a minor in History. While at IUP, he had the opportunity to work on the IMAPS project, where he helped scan and archive Pennsylvania’s extensive coal mine maps. Prior to returning to school, Eric owned and operated his own construction company. He has over fifteen years of carpentry experience. He wants to combine his carpentry experience, knowledge of geography, and his passion for American history to help preserve America’s colonial heritage.

Rebecca Reese was born and raised in Morgantown, West Virginia. She pursued a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from West Virginia University graduating in May of 2009. During her undergrad, Rebecca studied abroad in Great Britain. Her stint in Europe spurred her interest in historic architecture, which continued to grow once she returned to the States. In the summer of 2008, she became involved in a grassroots organization working to save a local landmark. Rebecca, along with other community members, advocated for the preservation of the building through historic research, petitions, and attending and speaking at county commission meetings. She also volunteered at West Virginia and Regional History Collection, working with a rare book collection. These experiences led Rebecca to the Historic Preservation program at the University of Vermont and she is thrilled to combine her background with a new and exciting future.

Kate Ritter comes to UVM after having graduated from Bennington College in 2008. There, she concentrated in architecture and music, and remained at the college for two years following her graduation to work in the office of student life as the athletic director and head soccer coach. While studying at Bennington, Kate had the opportunity to dive into several internships, including digitizing records for the Boulder, CO Historical Society, doing demolition work on historic houses in Ridgway, PA, and conducting an architectural analysis on the oldest standing house in Great Barrington, MA (her hometown) for the local historical society. For her senior architecture project at Bennington, Kate focused on the 1903 Jennings Hall music building
to create a proposal for more effective and historically sensitive usage. Above all, Kate’s main inspiration for her passion in historic preservation has always been her family’s 1886 farm in St. Marys, PA. In addition to exploring ghost towns, Kate enjoys hiking, yoga, cycling, soccer, skiing, and fiddling.

Elizabeth Warburton is from Warwick, Rhode Island. She earned a Bachelor’s degree in History and Anthropology from Rhode Island College in May 2010 and was awarded the college’s Evelyn Walsh Prize in History and the Phi Alpha Theta Excellence in History Award. During college, Elizabeth interned for three years with the RI State Historic Preservation Office where she worked on special grant projects and did the preliminary research for an American Battlefields Protection Grant application. This past summer, Elizabeth was a 1772 Foundation Fellow working with Preserve Rhode Island to take a census of historic sites and develop a Learning Collaborative that will aim to improve historic site efficiency. Elizabeth is most proud of the National Register nomination for the State Home and School for Dependent and Neglected Children Historic District in Providence, RI that she completed independently on behalf of Rhode Island College. In her free time, Elizabeth enjoys photography and textile crafts.

Outside of HP204, things are going well, both at work with Bread Loaf Corporation, and on the board of the Preservation Trust of Vermont. At BLC, building energy retrofits are very popular, and I’ve worked on two with the Vermont State Colleges recently. Both were on historic buildings from the recent past: Judd Hall at Vermont Technical College- a 1950s brick gymnasium with glass block and modernist touches- and Harvey Academic Center at Lyndon State College, at 1964 glass, steel and brick building originally built as the school’s library. We are also working on a ‘deep energy retrofit’ of a 1920s brick school building in West Rutland, changing this unoccupied former Catholic school (and the convent next store) into housing units with an expected 80% reduction in carbon usage.

On the board of the PTV, I’ve had the pleasure of working with graduate Meg Campbell on the PTV easement committee, and this spring I went to a National Trust for Historic Preservation Leadership Conference at the Mohonk Mountain House as a PTV board member and had an excellent time discussing the future of the National Trust and the role of non-profit statewide agencies in the modern world.

Sara Gredler (’06) works for Mead & Hunt, Inc., an architecture and engineering firm, in their Austin, Texas office. She works on multiple statewide bridge survey projects, and develops Microsoft Access databases for bridge survey work. Recently she completed community surveys in Texas and Michigan. A special experience was surveying and evaluating a suspension bridge in Los Angeles, California. In her spare time she is a researcher and genealogist.

Johnny Holdsworth (’10) returned to Vermont after spending a second summer working as an Archaeological Technician for the National Park Service at Bandelier National Monument in Los Alamos New Mexico. He had the opportunity to repair masonry, photo-document and complete conditions assessments on Pre-Columbian Pueblo sites dating back to 1300 AD. Prior to completing his degree in December, Johnny traveled to the island of Bermuda to meet with government and local officials to research historic preservation policy on the island for HP 304. Johnny is currently applying for jobs in the preservation field.
The Graduating Class of 2011

Left to right: (front) Jen Parsons, Kristen Gillott, Paul Wackrow, Sebastian Renfield, Scott Derkacz, Brennan Gauthier, Kate Della, (back) Lucas Harmon, Kaitlin O’Shea, Katie Miller, Emily Morgan, Adam Krakowski, Meghan Bezio

Photo: Paul Wyncoop

Meghan Bezio, originally from upstate New York, spent most of her life along the New Jersey shore. She earned her B.A. in Art History from The College of New Jersey in 2007 and has a background in Italian Renaissance Art. She worked with the principal historic preservation specialist at the Monmouth County Park System in New Jersey for fifteen months updating the field survey of 1900+ properties listed on the Monmouth County Historic Sites Inventory and performing research for exhibits at the parks. She has also worked as a consultant for the City of Plainfield in Union County, NJ, performing an initial survey of the city’s fifth proposed historic district. This summer, she completed an internship with the Philadelphia Historical Commission, preparing the Overbrook Farms Historic District nomination for inclusion on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. This semester she is looking forward to working with a team of fellow classmates to nominate the Mad River Glen Ski area to the National Register of Historic Places.

Kate Della, a graduate of Middlebury ’09, completed her Pre-Architecture major with thesis work focused on “Greening” Adaptive Re-Use and the natural alliance between recycling existing buildings and the sustainable design movement. Before joining UVM’s Masters program, she participated in Preservation Institute: Nantucket, the summer field school of the University of Florida’s Center for World Heritage & Stewardship. While studying at the Preservation Institute, she interned with Nantucket’s Historic District Commission to contribute to an initiative to produce an Energy Efficiency guide for Nantucket’s historic building fabric. This summer Kate returned to Nantucket to complete her graduate internship work with the Nantucket Preservation Trust. Kate also spent one month working as the in-house architectural preservation editor for Rice Design Alliance’s Cite Magazine in Houston, Texas.
Scott Derka grew up in Huguenot, New York in southeastern New York State. He attended Elizabethtown College located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania where he studied History and Asian Religions. From Elizabethtown College he attained a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies. During his undergraduate years, Scott worked in concrete masonry, building foundations for residential buildings throughout the Orange County, NY area. Soon after his undergraduate studies, he traveled to Vermont and enrolled in UVM’s Historic Preservation Graduate Program. During the summer of 2010, he completed an internship with the Citywide Monuments Conservation Program in New York City. His work in New York involved performing maintenance and conservation treatments to the city’s public monuments including Washington Square Arch, the Fireman’s Memorial, and many more. Outside of his academic work Scott enjoys long distance running, hiking, skiing, and working on his family’s dairy farm.

Brennan Gauthier was born and raised in Southbridge, Massachusetts, where he forged a strong interest in history and archaeology. He attended the Pomfret School in Connecticut where his studies focused on Geology and History. Brennan attended college at the University of Vermont where he studied Anthropology, Archaeology and History. During the summer of 2010 he was a Cultural Resources Intern with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation where he completed inventory forms on historic rail structures in Central New Hampshire. Brennan has an extensive collection of historic photographs and hopes to one day find a career involving historic photography and historic preservation.

Kristen Gillott was born and raised in Sayre, Pennsylvania. In 2007, upon graduation from the University of Scranton with a B.A. in History and a minor in Art History, Kristen became involved in her hometown’s Tioga Point Museum, where she researched and organized historic artifacts and historical documents relating to the artist George Carlin. This afforded her the opportunity to work with local artists and historians and construct an exhibit that is still currently on display at the museum. Also in 2007, Kristen enrolled in American History courses at Binghamton University where she became involved in the “Living U.S. Women’s History Project.” During her graduate work at the University of Vermont, she has enjoyed all aspects of preservation, incorporating her interests in art and community involvement, including an internship this summer in which she worked as a dry stone mason. This internship allowed her to research the history of dry stone walls and other structures, as well as educate and involve the community on these dry stone masonry preservation projects. After graduation, Kristen hopes to be able to incorporate her interest of history, art, and community into her preservation career.

Lucas Harmon, a native Vermonter from the small town of Shaftsbury, studied history and geography at the University of Vermont. Upon receiving his bachelors degree in 2008, Lucas spent time working in the preservation trades, gaining hands-on experience in the masonry restoration field, as well as working as an independent painting contractor. Entering his second year in the graduate program, Lucas’ interests lie mainly in architectural conservation and adaptive reuse. In that vein, Lucas spent his summer in New York City working as an intern for the Central Park Conservancy performing outdoor monument and sculpture conservation, gaining valuable experience in the conservation and restoration of bronze and other metals. In the time not spent dedicated to his studies, Lucas enjoys reading nineteenth century history, skiing, and fishing.

Adam Krakowski came to the Historic Preservation program with a background in decorative art conservation. He completed his undergraduate studies at Hartwick College, graduating with a B.A. in Art History and a minor in Museum Studies, with significant course work in Chemistry. Using his mixed background of arts and science, he spent time working as a decorative art conservator with a restoration firm in Pound Ridge, NY, and has held other various positions in the field. He spent the summer of 2010 expanding his knowledge of historic preservation, working for Preservation Unlimited Inc. on historic masonry, as well as interning with the City of Montpelier. This semester Adam will be working on updating a walking tour of Montpelier, as well as presenting his paper, Stillness at Last: Preservation of the Built Environment at Sabbathday Lake at the Communal Studies Association annual conference at New Harmony, Indiana, in October.

Katie Miller, originally from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, received her B.A. in Cultural and Historic Preservation from Salve Regina University in Newport,
Rhode Island. After working with the Newport Planning and Zoning Department identifying discrepancies between HDC-approved plans and finished construction projects, the Waterfront Historic Area League developing a neighborhood revitalization plan, and Mount Auburn Cemetery documenting historic monuments, she found her niche in the field working for the NPS. Katie worked on several projects for the Cape Cod National Seashore, including assisting in developing a proposal for an Arcadia Publishing book: Images of America: 50 Years of the Cape Cod National Seashore and providing oversight, recommendations, and partial content for a curriculum-based investigation workbook to educate students in grades 5-12 about critical cultural resource issues. In 2009, Katie served as an archival intern at Yosemite National Park. This summer, Katie worked for the NPS Intermountain Regional Office in Santa Fe, NM, where she completed Cultural Landscape Inventories for Bryce Canyon, Mesa Verde, and Grand Canyon National Parks.

Emily Morgan is enjoying her second year at UVM. This summer she worked with the South Burlington Planning and Zoning Board researching the Mayfair Park neighborhood and completing a history of South Burlington. She used this opportunity to continue her understanding of mid-century modern architecture as well as post-war buildings and expansion of metropolitan areas. She also had the opportunity to attend the Modernism Conference at UVM, and traveled throughout New England and the Midwest. Emily looks forward to exploring her roots after completing her studies at UVM and will travel either back to the Midwest or possibly to the Carolinas, while continuing her lifelong passion for sports including ice hockey and rugby.

Kaitlin O’Shea, a native to Long Island, New York, found her preservation calling at the University of Mary Washington where she received her B.A. in Historic Preservation. After college, Kaitlin spent three years in North Carolina conducting an oral history project of Overhills, a former Rockefeller estate owned by the U.S. Army. In June 2010, Kaitlin presented her HP304 preservation policy paper on the Lake Champlain Bridge at the Society for Industrial Archaeology meeting in Colorado. This summer Kaitlin worked with the Vermont Agency of Transportation conducting Section 106 and Section 4(f) project reviews in addition to working as the Historic Preservation Monitor for the Lake Champlain Bridge Replacement Project, insuring compliance with the Programmatic Agreement. She will continue with this position through the completion of the bridge construction. In her free time, Kaitlin enjoys running long distance, writing, roadside architecture, and blogging about historic preservation at www.preservationinpink.com.

Jen Parsons hails from Somersworth, NH, though stints in several other locales have dominated the years since youth. Film production in Los Angeles and buying books for an independent bookstore in Telluride, Colorado filled the post-college years. Renovating a 1930s Dutch Colonial in the town of Sawpit, Colorado (pop. 50) stirred the historic preservation pot, when it became revealed that you could, indeed, put lipstick on the proverbial pig—or at least jack her up off the foundation and repair the pig. A subsequent move to Vermont with her husband, a native, further fanned those preservation flames. Currently, another foundation project is underway in her South Burlington home, and she clearly has the sinking feeling this may not be her last. Her internships included Section 106 reviews of photovoltaic panel installation on historic structures, and researching an original history of Woodstock’s Faulkner Trail. She really just wants to repair her newly acquired 1965 Scotty Gaucho “canned ham” camper.

Sebastian Renfield was raised in Durham, North Carolina before emigrating to the Northeast. He studied sculpture and typesetting before settling on furniture, and graduated from the New England School of Architectural Woodworking in 2006. He worked as a cabinetmaker until deciding to pursue a graduate degree. Since then, he has worked on timber-framing projects both in Vermont and in California’s Death Valley National Park. He completed his summer internship in Pecos, New Mexico, working to restore the historic millwork in an early 19th-century trading post on the Santa Fe Trail. The project is part of a multi-year campaign to restore Kozlowski’s Trading Post for use by the National Park Service. Sebastian can now add “eating menudo” and “painting retablos” to his list of interests. Though he misses the desert air and the abundance of wild plums, he is happy to be back in Vermont, where his
extracurricular activities include cross-country skiing, hiking, and tinkering with his ever-growing collection of musical instruments.

Paul Wackrow grew up in Massachusetts and studied history at Providence College in Rhode Island. As an undergraduate, Paul had an internship with the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission working on a project to digitalize the state’s National Register of Historic Places records. Following graduation he spent one year serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA member in Boston with a local non-profit organization. Paul also worked as an intern at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts contributing to an ongoing multi-year historical monument survey. He entered the Historic Preservation Program at UVM in the autumn of 2009 and spent this past summer working at the National Park Service’s Boston Support Office as a National Council for Preservation (NCPE) Intern. Paul worked with the region’s Historic Architecture Program to update the List of Classified Structures, which is an inventory of historic resources owned by the Park.

VERMONT’S MAD RIVER GLEN: A NATIONAL REGISTER WORK IN PROGRESS

By Scott Derkacz

The State of Vermont has long been remembered for its array of exciting recreational pastimes during the winter months. Included on this list of activities are ice hockey, snowshoeing, ice fishing, and snowmobiling to name just a few. And of course, who could leave skiing off the list of Vermont’s winter pastimes? Skiing has long been embedded in Vermont’s history and continues to thrive throughout the state with a number of ski mountains successfully prospering during the winter months including Stowe, Jay Peak, Smugglers’ Notch, and Killington. One of the oldest and most recognizable of the ski mountains in the state is Mad River Glen, located in Fayston, Vermont.

The Historic Preservation Program at the University of Vermont has recognized the significant history of Mad River Glen and has taken on the task of nominating the ski area to the National Register of Historic Places. Six members of the HP 302 Community Preservation Project class have formulated a team that will complete the nomination to be submitted to the National Park Service. These six classmates include Luke Harmon, Kaitlin O’Shea, Jen Parsons, Sebastian Renfield, Meghan Bezio, and Scott Derkacz.

Working alongside Professor Bob McCullough and recent graduate of the program, Britta Fenniman, the group will focus on Mad River Glen’s unique history. Founded in 1947, Mad River Glen has a number of characteristics that set it apart from other Vermont ski mountains. One of these features is its current operation as a cooperative; it is owned by a number of individual skiers who purchase available shares in the ski area. Other distinctive elements of the ski area are its snowshoe trails, its tree skiing or off-trail skiing, and its single chairlift, which is one of only two single chairlifts that are in operation today. Mad River Glen also pays tribute to skiers only and has enforced a snowboarding ban on its trails for several years. If successfully nominated, Mad River Glen will be the first ski area in the United States to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.