



I am pleased to report on another successful fiscal year at North Bennet Street School; a year in which we have taken several steps that set the stage for our continued success.

As described in this year's Treasurer's Letter, we achieved a significant milestone by completing the final step in the \$12M financing of the purchase and construction of 150 North Street. I am proud to share that, as of June 30, 2018, the School now fully owns its new home, free of all debt and financial obligations.

For history buffs, the last time the School emerged from debt was 117 years ago, when we repaid the last of the \$50,000 borrowed in 1884 to purchase our original home at 39 North Bennet Street. From the Annual Report of 1901:

"The generous legacy of \$20,000 left to the School by Mr. Edward I. Browne has now all been paid over to the Treasurer. Of this sum, \$7,500 has been used to buy outstanding notes on the building."

Though seemingly a small amount today, those funds helped establish NBSS and carry its mission to thousands of students over the years. The School continues to make great use of our new facility, which we hope to enjoy for another 130+ years.

Equally important this past year has been planning for a change in leadership at NBSS. As previously announced, after 12 fulfilling years I will retire from my role as President at the close of 2018. The Executive Committee met in August 2017 to discuss the transition process, identify key stakeholders, establish leadership priorities for the School, and define key characteristics of our next President.

A Presidential Search Committee was convened in September 2017, and in the months that followed, they identified over 40 qualified candidates from across the country. By summer's end, the Committee unanimously agreed that Sarah Turner has, in their words, "the training, experience, and passion necessary to lead our institution. As an educator and artist, she knows first-hand the details of running a post-secondary school, and appreciates the significance of a career in craft and the trades."

As I write this, my last annual letter as President, Sarah has accepted the Board's offer to lead NBSS and we are fully engaged in the transition process. Combined with the imminent completion of our \$20M *Lives & Livelihoods* scholarship campaign, I have every confidence that the School is well positioned to continue its national leadership in the field of craft and vocational education.

As always, the year's accomplishments would not have been possible without the generous contributions of our community: the dedicated students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of North Bennet Street School. Our new President inherits an institution with a tremendous legacy and bright future, supported by this passionate community.

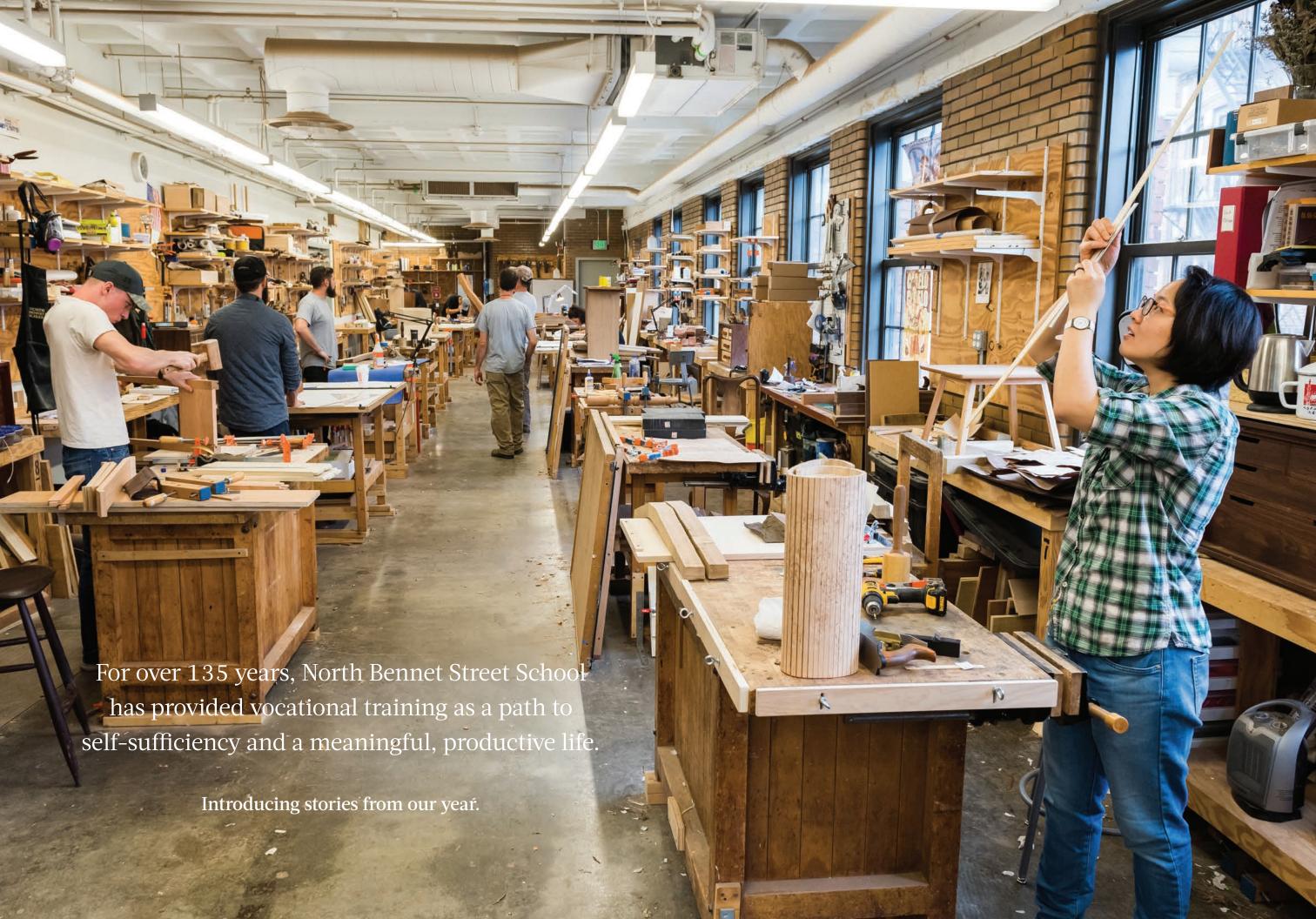
Thank you.

Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez CF '99 President

Mysorth



1



## Bookbinding



INSTRUCTORS
Jeff Altepeter BB '99
(Dept. Head)
Martha Kearsley BB '95

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Babette Gehnrich
Deborah Wender
James Reid-Cunningham BB '90
Mary Patrick Bogan
Paul Parisi
Samuel Ellenport

ANNUAL TUITION \$24,400

STUDENTS

AGE RANGE 23-65

Bookbinder, collector, exhibit organizer, and philanthropist Louisa "Lisa" Hunnewell von Clemm was a supportive, encouraging member of the NBSS Board of Directors for over 25 years.

Though she passed away in 2016, her considerable impact on the School continues to be felt in meaningful ways, including the new Lisa von Clemm Scholarship established this year in her memory.

The Scholarship is specifically intended for Bookbinding students. As an endowed, need-based fund, it will ensure the program continues to thrive for years to come.

"This kind of support is very important because bookbinding training is expensive. Scholarship assistance is critical for students. And one of the fantastic things about this scholarship is that it would have been really dear to Lisa's heart," explains Bookbinding Department Head and Instructor Jeff Altepeter BB '99. "Lisa gave NBSS and the Bookbinding program not only financial, but also emotional support. She helped organize trips to England so students could view amazing collections, visit with suppliers, and meet colleagues at industry events. Lisa and her daughter Stefanie von Clemm [current NBSS Board Member] even hosted students at Lisa's home in London."

It was while living in London that Lisa began a more than 30-year association with the U.K.-based Designer Bookbinders, a membership organization committed to promoting the craft of fine British bookbinding through worldwide exhibitions and publications. After winning a Designer Bookbinders competition, Lisa went on to run the organization's Annual Competition for many years, according to Simon Eccles, a book collector, exhibition promoter, and U.K. native who now divides his time between Boston and Williamsburg, Virginia.

Simon initially got involved with Designer
Bookbinders in 2001, at Lisa's invitation. "I bought
my first design bookbinding at the show. Lisa told
me that I was buying a good book – but I was paying

too much," says Simon with a laugh. "I share that story with great affection, because I know that Lisa's many good friends will recognize her in it."

The pair's friendship evolved further on a shared trip to Boston. "We brought the international exhibit, *Bound for Success*, to the Boston Public Library in September 2009, and at that time we began to talk at length about the craft and about NBSS. By August 2015, when I was finally living full-time in the U.S., the School became one of my primary interests.

"It is a truly remarkable place and I don't believe there is any better bookbinding program. It's a success story in itself, but like all programs it is in need of scholarship support," explains Simon, who now serves on the NBSS Board of Advisors.

Simon had that in mind when he helped organize a fundraiser for the new Lisa von Clemm Scholarship in conjunction with *Heroic Works*, the Designer Bookbinders third international exhibition which was presented at NBSS in fall 2017. "This scholarship is exactly what Lisa would want as her legacy. She would be behind it 100 percent. When Lisa believed in something, she was there for it fully," says Simon.

As a Hunnewell, Lisa's connection to NBSS was longstanding. It was Lisa who, in 1999, initiated the "Annual Evening of Craft" at her home on the Hunnewell Estate in Wellesley. She would later host the 10th anniversary of what is now the "Annual Celebration of Craft."

"Helping to memorialize Lisa with this scholarship is my way of evidencing the importance of North Bennet Street School," says Simon. "I know my good friend would be very happy about that."



## Carpentry

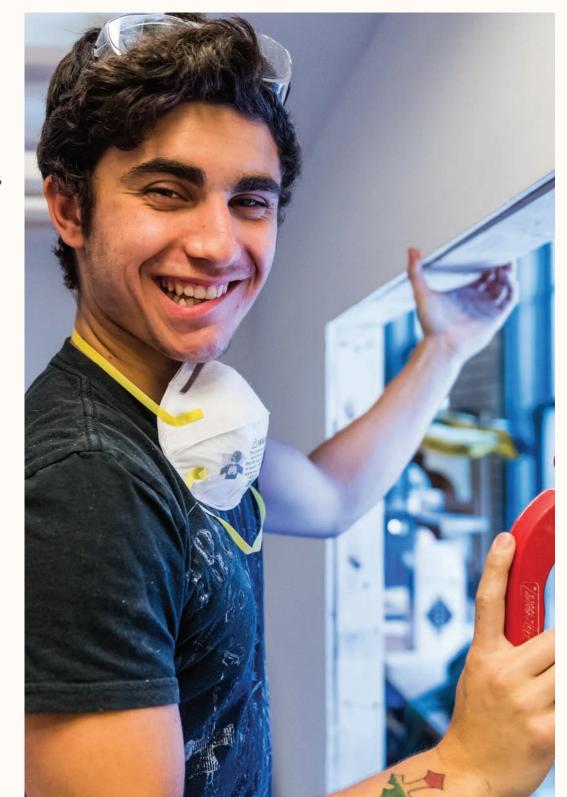
INSTRUCTORS
Brian Vogt PC '94
(Dept. Head)
Geoff Shaw PC '94

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Arthur Massaro
Barry A. Mann PC '97
Edward Howland
Kurt Fieldhouse CA '93
Patrick O'Shaughnessy CA '06
Stephen Gould PC '01

ANNUAL TUITION \$25,500

students 27

> AGE RANGE 18-61





When someone says it's time to raise the roof, it usually signals a celebration. But when a client asked Carpentry Department Head Brian Vogt PC '94 to raise the roof on a structure earlier this year, he knew any plans for party music would have to wait.

"The call I got involved a barn in Upton, Massachusetts. It was a simple building with a foundation and a roof, but no walls. The initial plan was that we would demo the existing roof, build new walls, and frame a new roof on the existing foundation," says Brian.

Property owner Sherry Berger had another idea. "There had been a two-story barn there, but when I bought the property it was just as I described to Brian. The roof looked new and when we opened one end of it, we could see brand-new trusses. Because of the way it was built, we knew it could be lifted with a crane," recalls Sherry. In consultation with Brian and another contractor, she decided to go with the crane option, which ultimately cost less than replacing the roof.

Sherry—a restaurateur who, along with husband Russ, operates the Red Rock Grill & Bar in Upton—learned about carpentry and construction from her late father. She came to know of NBSS from her nephew, Matt Frechette CA '16, now a student in the Cabinet & Furniture Making program.

"My dad, and Matt's grandfather, was a hobby farmer who built a lot of barns, and just about every structure we ever lived in. I was the youngest of five daughters and I learned a lot by watching my dad work. And when it came time for this project, Matt recommended

I contact NBSS," says Sherry. She did just that, submitting a Carpentry Project form, which was approved.

"This was one of two 2018 residential projects. And while I was initially skeptical because it didn't involve roof framing, I recognized that this project was very atypical and had some special elements that the class could learn from," says Brian.

With the decision made, Brian and Carpentry Instructor Geoffrey Shaw PC '94 headed with the Class of 2018 to central Massachusetts to prefabricate the walls and get other tasks underway. A crane was brought on site and over just 24 hours the roof was lifted, walls were installed, and the roof lowered into place and secured. All in, the project took just 30 days from start to finish.

Brian is very familiar with both the benefits and the challenges of work completed outside the classroom. "When we do projects at the School, it's a controlled environment where the number of curve balls, or softballs, thrown is at my discretion. Off site work means you have less control, and you've got to be much more reactive when it comes to surprises that inevitably happen. It keeps you on your toes," says Brian.

Since this particular project was done in early April, keeping those toes from getting cold probably involved some warm socks. "The students are dying to work on an actual jobsite until they get out there and it's windy and rainy, and their fingers are cold. Then it's a different story," says Brian with a knowing laugh.

A success story in this case, if you ask Sherry. "It was a great outcome. Everything worked out beautifully because of North Bennet Street School," says the pleased property owner. "We have a wonderful new hay barn for our horses."

# Cabinet & Furniture Making



INSTRUCTORS
Daniel C. Faia CF '94
(Dept. Head)
Steven Brown CF '90
Lance Patterson CF '79
Matt Wajda CF'00

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Brian Kelly CF'84
Gregory Porfido CF'89
Mark Del Guidice
Sean Fisher CF'94
William Doub CF'74
William Locke CF'95

ANNUAL TUITION \$25.000

STUDENTS 37

age range 19-58



Exhibit photos courtesy of The Trustees

It's clear that students who study at NBSS have access to rigorous training that advances their skills, heightens their understanding of materials, and sends them into the working world with a new outlook on their craft.

What may be less easily noticed is that the work of every NBSS graduate exists at the intersection of expert craft and creative interpretation. Throughout their daily work, NBSS artisans are constantly readjusting their approach and drawing on their environment and history for inspiration.

This truth about NBSS alumni was made perfectly clear through *Conversations in Craft: Furniture from The Trustees Collection and North Bennet Street School Artisans.* Curated by The Trustees' Senior Curator, Christie Jackson, this exhibition featured newly-created, original pieces of wooden furniture made by thirteen select faculty and alumni from NBSS, alongside "four centuries of furniture" from The Trustees' historic collections.

"I wanted to show NBSS artisans not only beautiful pieces but also ones that had great stories," says Christie. "One person may see a cut of wood or an angle that gets them going, but for someone else, it may be the story of how that object came to be or where it's from that's inspiring."

The exhibition included 13 original works in all, each offering a unique perspective. One pairing showcased a new hard maple stand with gorgeous marquetry alongside a tilt-top table from 1810. In another set, a carved outdoor swing drew inspiration from multiple sources, including a historic corner cupboard and an inscribed ring discovered during the research process. Other new pieces in the exhibit spanned styles and typologies: a folding chair, a set of nesting tables, a twig lantern, and a sunflower wall hanging among them.

One of the best outcomes from the collaboration was how visitors engaged with The Trustees' historic pieces. Christie recalls people of all ages, especially children, gesturing between the original furniture and its newly inspired companion piece in an attempt to make connections between the two. "When you read the artisans' statements about what inspired them or captured their eye, these works suddenly become relatable. That factor allowed us to have meaningful conversations with exhibit guests," she shares.

The collaboration and subsequent exhibition at Fruitlands Museum was a huge success, with people of all backgrounds attending, including collectors, families, and curious members of the public, some of them new to The Trustees altogether. The exhibit was even extended by a month, and an anonymous donor was so moved by the aforementioned swing that they purchased it for The Trustees, adding to their collection.

Christie believes that the values of artistry and respect for craft's legacy made the collaborative exhibit a perfect match. "NBSS has a sense of history and preservation. They understand tradition and are continually exploring its relevance in their work. This was what *Conversations in Craft* was all about: how objects, and their makers, remain relevant across generations."

# Jewelry Making & Repair

INSTRUCTORS
Ann Cahoon JM '02
(Dept. Head)

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Alan Leavitt
Chris Ploof
Craig Rottenberg
Emily Scott JM '07
Ilah Cibis JM '05
John F. Gifford JM '97, CF '01
Geraldine Kish Perry JM '00
(through November 2017)
Daniel R. Spirer
(through November 2017)

ANNUAL TUITION \$24,100

STUDENTS

age range 18-39



Merit-based scholarships at NBSS recognize excellence and provide a benchmark toward which future students strive. The Gladys Brooks Foundation Scholarship is one of the School's newest offerings, and NBSS is proud to announce Marei Dose JM '18 as the inaugural recipient.

The mission of the Gladys Brooks Foundation is to provide for the "intellectual, moral, and physical welfare of the people of this country by establishing and supporting non-profit libraries, educational institutions, hospitals, and clinics." This endowed scholarship, established in 2016 as part of the *Lives & Livelihoods Campaign*, specifically provides funds to an exceptional student in their second or third year of training at NBSS.

Merit, in this case, is based solely on three categories: educational achievements, technical mastery, and potential for leadership in their respective field.

Students from any of the School's multi-year programs are eligible, and more than one student may be awarded the aid each year.

The process of vetting nominees is one part quantitative, one part qualitative. First, factors like grades, attendance, and overall performance in the classroom are taken into account via a numerical matrix. Then, the scholarship committee must assess the elements of a nominee's profile that are more fluid, such as recommendations from instructors. Students are not aware they have been nominated, and their names are not included to keep the process as objective as possible.

For this reason, Marei was shocked when she learned of the awarded scholarship. "It was on a school day early this year when [NBSS staff members] Claire and Melissa came into the jewelry space and asked me to join them in Ann's office," says Marei. "I had no idea what was going on, so I was really surprised and touched when they told me. I felt honored to be singled out and recognized in this way."

In her written nomination, Ann Cahoon JM '02, Jewelry Making & Repair Department Head, outlined Marei's many accolades. "From her most fundamental projects, to her current advanced fabrication and stone setting, the quality of her work is exceptional. She has always put the technical merit of a finished piece before the speed with which she completes it." She continued, "She completes every job to the highest possible standards, and will set the bar high as the first recipient of this award."

After graduating from the University of Hannover in Germany with a Master's degree in Biochemistry, and later earning her PhD from Tufts University, Marei went on to conduct basic Immunology research for the National Institutes of Health, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, and the University of Chicago. Though she had a promising career in medical research, Marei came to the realization that she wanted to do something different. At age 39, Marei came to NBSS to begin a second career, and a new life.

Marei has since graduated from NBSS, and already works for a jewelry manufacturer where she can, in her words, "grow my skills and hone my craft in a most inspiring and supportive environment." This scholarship was the affirmation she needed to kickstart that rewarding new career. "It was the ultimate confirmation for me; I am definitely on the right track to my dreams."



# Locksmithing & Security Technology



INSTRUCTORS
Barbara Baker LK '04
(Dept. Head)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Dave Troiano
Jeffrey G. Schwartz
John (Jack) Hobin
Lew Alessandrini
Michael Samra LK '87
Stephen McKinney
Virginia M. Newbury
Rick Weisse

ANNUAL TUITION \$21.000

STUDENTS 10

AGE RANGE 20-41

Assessing prospective students for any advanced learning program can be challenging, especially if that program requires an intimate understanding of complex processes or esoteric knowledge that isn't easily measurable.

Barb Baker LK '04, Locksmithing & Security Technology Department Head, understands this dilemma all too well. After meetings with prospective students over several years, and multiple conversations with the School's Director of Admissions, she developed a unique skills test that helps qualify candidates for the program.

"This isn't a test that's graded and goes on their record. This is way for me as an instructor to observe the prospective student, and for them to get a feel for what they will actually be doing as a locksmith." says Baker. "Rob O'Dwyer and the Admissions team already do an excellent job of assessing candidates. This test additionally allows for observation during specific mechanical manipulation tasks."

Almost every applicant to the Locksmithing & Security Technology program has a backstory about how they've spent time in their lives taking things apart and putting them back together. "It's just part of what makes them tick," says Barb. "I believe that but I also want to see it."

The skills test (aptly nicknamed the "Lockstacle Course," by Barb's daughter) has evolved over time. It started two years ago as a challenge to disassemble and reassemble a mechanical pen while being observed. Today, prospective students are faced with several challenges that may include: engaging a combination square, explaining in detail how a filing cabinet key operates the lock/unlock functions, or re-handing an assembly on a door, among others.

The process is simple: Barb lays out an array of tools and offers no information or suggestions about how applicants can reach their goal.



Throughout, she is assessing them based on four categories: engagement, theorizing/troubleshooting, spatial awareness, and manual or body dexterity. Barb explains:

Engagement is how the candidate approaches the hardware. How thoroughly do they work with this system? Did they turn the object around and look at it from all angles? Do they try to manipulate it and learn how everything works?

Theorizing and troubleshooting relate to how well someone develops and modifies a theory–based on testing, outcome, potential new approach, and effectiveness of chosen tool.

Spatial awareness is so important because most of the activities conducted in this department happen in three-dimensional space. We need to know if they have an innate feel for three-dimensional systems. This also ties into manual or body dexterity, showing me how a person orients their hands and body in space.

Barb knows that applicants taking her "Lockstacle Course" have already been vetted by the Admissions team. But this experience uncovers a final, hard-to-measure factor: whether or not a prospective student will truly enjoy the work they'll be doing.

"The test lets me see if the candidate makes adjustments, and if they delight in the experience," says Barb. "I'm always watching to see if the work appeals to them. As they get farther into the skills test, do they seem to like it even more? That's very defining for me, and for them, too."

## Piano Technology

INSTRUCTORS

David Betts PT '72 (Dept. Head) Debbie Cyr PA '93 Emily Townsend PT '07, PA '08 Louis del Bene PT '06, PA '07

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Don Mannino George Crawford Lawrence Fine PT '76 Lewis J. Surdam PT '79, PA '80 Sean Mallari PT '05, PA '06 Stephen Carver Ann Garee

ANNUAL TUITION \$25,000 (Basic) \$24,500 (Advanced)

STUDENTS 15 (Basic) 10 (Advanced)

AGE RANGE 20-56 (Basic) 21-65 (Advanced)



A former instructor in Piano Technology at NBSS, Jack Stebbins PT '82, PA '83 has earned the *Examiner of the Year Award* from the Piano Technicians Guild (PTG) on a number of occasions. So often in fact that the 4,000-memberstrong organization, the industry's only recognized piano service certification program, decided to rename the honor after him.

Fittingly, the inaugural Jack Stebbins *Examiner of the Year Award* went to none other than its new namesake at PTG's Annual Convention this past July, where Basic Piano Technology (PT) instructor Debbie Cyr PA '93 was also honored with the *Member of Note Award*.

"I dare say that I have been honored with the title five or six times, but when it was awarded to me this year, I didn't have a clue of the name change. It caught me flat-footed," recalls Jack. "Having the prestigious award named for me was a very humbling experience. At the same time, being affirmed once again by my colleagues was a wonderful moment."

The recognition is richly deserved according to Marc Poulin PT '96, PA '97, who is not only National Secretary/Treasurer of the PTG Board of Directors and Chair of the Examinations & Tests Standards Committee, but also one of Jack's former students. "Jack has been a fixture on PTG's Exam and Test Standards Committee for some 30 years and has trained more Certified Training Examiners than anyone else in the organization's 70-year history," explains Marc.

Preparing students for exams is a skill Jack honed at both NBSS and PTG. "You enter PTG as an Associate Member, which is what I was when I joined as a student. After graduating from NBSS, I upgraded to Registered Piano Technician, which requires a battery of tests that demonstrate to your colleagues that you are competent.

"It wasn't long before I was teaching classes and giving exams for PTG at the regional and national levels. That, plus being at NBSS and giving so many exams, is why I became such an authority. I probably gave more exams to new piano technicians than anyone else in the world," says Jack with a laugh.

When he wasn't administering exams, he was helping students both in and out of the classroom. "At PTG dinners and events, Jack would sit in the hallway, willing to teach anyone who had questions," says Marc. "He is the most dedicated teacher I have ever met and among the most influential people in my life. Jack inspired me to start teaching piano technology classes at PTG. I just wanted to be half as good a teacher as he was."

In 2015, Jack retired after 29 years at NBSS. For a couple of years, he continued to work as a Piano Technician, but ultimately decided to fully retire... almost. "For the most part, climbing under pianos is no more for me," says Jack, who was also elected to the PTG Hall of Fame in 2016. "I've done maybe three commercial piano tunings – all free of charge as my way of giving back."



## Preservation Carpentry



INSTRUCTORS
Steven O'Shaughnessy PC '99
(Dept. Head)
Michael Burrey

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Anne Grady
Denis Semprebon
Robert A. Adam
Sara B. Chase
William Finch
William Lewis Barlow, IV
Brian Pfeiffer

ANNUAL TUITION \$25,300

STUDENTS 21

AGE RANGE 20-54

The original front door of the long-gone Hancock Mansion on Beacon Hill recently emerged from storage as the Bostonian Society, its steward, sought to showcase the artifact.

Students from the Preservation Carpentry (PC) program were commissioned to build a full-scale reproduction of the fine Georgian home's frontispiece (decorative entryway) as part of a historic exhibit that ran through December 2018 at the Old State House.

In order to construct the most accurate replica, PC students spent several months studying the house and its history. The research covered documents such as architectural drawings, site photos, and city records, in addition to objects preserved in museum collections, and houses of similar style as the Hancock Mansion.

Steven O'Shaughnessy PC '99, PC Department Head, says his second-year students were very open to working on such a unique project.

"This was a perfect skill-building opportunity for our students. They learned how to research and document a project, in addition to hand and machine skills like turning wood columns, carving brackets, and constructing timber frames," says Steve. "Best of all, they got to collaborate with a dedicated, knowledgeable client in the Bostonian Society."

The respect was mutual, according to Society Collections Manager Sira Dooley Fairchild.

"The students of the Preservation Carpentry program are truly artists as well as craftspeople, and the range of techniques they employed for this project were amazing," she says. "From timber framing to detailed carving, we never ceased to be amazed at their skill."

After decades in storage, the door was covered in dust and grime. Students used Q-tips and a mild solution to bring out its features, using extreme care so as not to damage the 12-panel door nor hide its historic character—the minor dings and scrapes accumulated through use and age.

Removing the dirt wasn't the only challenge, however. Recreating the fine details of the structure around the door as it hung on the Hancock house—using just old photographs and illustrations—was also a feat. The team of students spent months working on hand-carved brackets, ten-foot-tall wood columns, and heavy timber frames.

The Hancock Mansion was built in 1737 by Thomas Hancock and later home to his nephew, John Hancock, the first signer of the Declaration of Independence and the first and third Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In 1863, 70 years after John Hancock's death, the house was razed to make way for new brownstone townhouses, with many of its components auctioned off or given away.



The public outcry that followed the Mansion's demolition helped launch the preservation movement that has seen the Bostonian Society and other such organizations save countless buildings and artifacts, from being lost forever. The door has been part of the Bostonian Society collection since the late 19th century, and exhibited periodically.

This latest partnership reinforced the longstanding relationship between the two Boston institutions, according to Kathy Mulvaney, Director of Education and Exhibitions at the Bostonian Society.

"We were thrilled to collaborate once again with the students, alumni, and faculty of North Bennet Street School. As always, we were amazed by their talent and attention to detail. We couldn't be more pleased with the work they performed," says Kathy.

# Violin Making & Repair

INSTRUCTORS
Roman Barnas
(Dept. Head)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE Andrew Ryan Christopher Reuning David Polstein VM '89 Kevin Kelly VM '92 Ben Ruth

ANNUAL TUITION \$25,600

STUDENTS 12

AGE RANGE 19-34



The 2018 graduates of Violin Making & Repair (VM) were in fine form for their End of Program Exam, where their work was favorably evaluated by an esteemed panel of examiners.

Taking place in July at NBSS, the evaluation's primary focus was the physical quality and tone of graduating students' violins. The grading system also evaluated their written work, notebooks, and technical drawings. After completing its evaluations, the panel discussed its findings, and subsequently met with each student individually.

Members of the VM Program Advisory Board include Chris Reuning of Reuning & Son Violins, a maker and internationally renowned expert in violin identification; Ben Ruth, recipient of the Hors Concours from the Violin Society of America (VSA); and award-winning makers and VM guest lecturers Kevin Kelly VM '92, David Polstein VM '89, and Andrew Ryan. Joining the panel for the third time was special guest Samuel Zygmuntowicz, who is "among the most acclaimed makers in the world today," according to Roman Barnas, VM Department Head and instructor.

"The panel can assess sound potential even without hearing the instrument. What they want to see is how well each violin is made. They review the entire instrument looking for accuracy in execution of every aspect, judging the overall impression, and the style of the violin. For example, the outline review includes checking for precise dimensions and proper curve relations, looking for the corners to be consistent with the model, and all angles correct. Additional examination includes fine details such as the mitering of the purfling or decorative wood inlay near the instrument's border," explains Roman. "The violins are graded on how closely they emulate Italian masters such as Stradivarius, primarily his instruments made between 1715 and 1720, which are the gold standard of the classic Cremonese school of violin making."



Sam—whose clients have included Joshua Bell, Cho-Liang Lin, and the late Isaac Stern, and who employs VSA Silver Medalist Justin Hess VM '11 as foreman of his Brooklyn shop—liked what he saw. "The quality of the students' work is consistently first-rate. They were all clearly well-schooled, but their individual personalities still came through. I was very impressed," he says. "Kevin, David, Chris, Ben, and Andrew are generous with their time, and their support adds depth to the program."

Chris, widely recognized as a violin expert, also has high praise for both teacher and students. "Roman is extremely skilled at his craft, and has the care and ability of a great teacher too. There is a great sense of camaraderie among the students. They're competitive, but they also urge each other on to become better craftspeople." he shares. "The best way to judge a school is on the quality of its graduates. NBSS is one of the best violin making schools in the world, and its students and alumni are at the very top level."

Sam feels the End of Program Exam is a valuable tool for feedback. "If you work professionally, you will work for an audience. Showing their work to a panel of professionals is bracing for some students, but it gives them the opportunity to see what it's like to be part of a serious profession."

Sam also praises the VM program's relationship with the School's larger community. "Every program has its own culture, and many tend to be insular. There's a danger in that kind of micro-climate, because students don't get real-world experience. At NBSS, the overall environment is very different," points out Sam. "It's of great value that the Violin Making & Repair program is situated among other first-rate programs like Cabinet & Furniture Making and Preservation Carpentry. It's part of a continuum of craft, and not too precious."



ENROLLMENT 862

STUDENTS 682

Instructors 50

STUDENTS SERVED
IN YOUTH PROGRAMS
358

NBSS has a long history of successful partnerships with other schools in Boston. The programs focus on project-based learning, which offer all students the opportunity to succeed, especially those who don't perform well in a typical classroom setting.

This past year marked the most recent collaboration of this kind, occuring with the Donald McKay K-8 School. Funded by the EdVestors' 2018 School Solutions Seed Fund, the new program extends the School's reach to East Boston, a diverse community just across the harbor from our North End neighborhood.

The pilot program brought two sixth-grade classes to NBSS once a week to craft "objects" (in this case, name tags and pencil boxes), which showed students how seemingly abstract knowledge can translate to the real world. These projects were specifically designed to explore volume, fractions, and surface area standards that students were already learning as a part of their sixth-grade required curriculum.

"Our goal was to get the students more engaged with the math curriculum through hands-on problem solving," says Katie Theodoros, Director of Continuing Education at NBSS. "We also worked with their teachers to show that project-based learning can be valuable in generating excitement about math, especially at an age when some kids are losing interest in that subject."

The successful collaboration between NBSS and Donald McKay K-8 School was mutually beneficial. The school's teachers discovered a new way to implement learning standards with fun activities that encourage exploration and problem-solving. For NBSS, this partnership was the perfect opportunity to craft these types of programs, ensuring that they're well-received by students of all abilities and that the outcomes are meaningful.

Katy Peake, lead faculty member for theMcKay School, saw firsthand how students worked through some of these projects. She points out how much it offered her students. "It was definitely the most enjoyable part of the school day," says Katy. "These projects really helped kids who don't do well in traditional learning environments like reading groups, lectures, or writing assignments. They gave those students a chance to excel."

In addition to the intended outcomes of the partnership, the collaborative program also enhanced students' moods, self-expression, engagement, and enthusiasm for learning. Trips to NBSS likewise offered students a break from their regular academic schedule.

Katy enjoyed the time she was able to connect with her students while working through the projects together. "An overwhelmingly positive aspect of the experience was being able to spend time with students while they were creating something," she says. "I was learning right alongside them, too—trying things out, and even messing up! It helped me develop a closer relationship to my students overall."



## Continuing Education Courses offered during FY 2018

#### **WOODWORKING & CARPENTRY**

Birdhouses
Cabinet Making and Installation
Chip Carving
Continuous Arm Windsor Chair
Cutting Board and Rolling Pin
Danish Modern Plant Stand
End Grain Cutting Board
Framing Intensive
Fundamentals of Fine Woodworking
Fundamentals of Machine

Handcut Dovetails
Historic Timber Framing
Interior Trim
Introduction to Bowl Turning
Introduction to Drywall
Introduction to Framing
Introduction to Shellac
Introduction to Spindle Turning
Introduction to the Router

Woodworking

Letter Carving
Open Shop: Bowl Turning
Picture Frames
Relief Carving
Shaker Boxes
Shaker Wall Shelf

Japanese Hand Planes

Small Side Table Spoon Carving

Three-Month Furniture Making
Intensive

Windsor Chairs

Woodcarving for Period Furniture Woodworking 101

#### **BOOK ARTS & BOOKBINDING**

Book Structures for Prints and Photographs Bookbinding 101 Calligraphy 101 Cross Structure Binding Enclosures for Preservation and Beyond Folded Books Fundamentals of Bookbinding I Fundamentals of Bookbinding II Introduction to Book Conservation Introduction to Paper Conservation Italian Paper Bindings Leather Boxes Leather Re-Backing Miniature Bookbindings Paper Marbling with Acrylics Rebind a Book Simple Edge Decoration Secret Belgian Binding Tradtional Ethiopian Bookbinding Travel Journals

#### JEWELRY MAKING

Fundamentals of Jewelry Making I:
Essential Skills
Fundamentals of Jewelry Making II:
Soldering Intensive
Fundamentals of Jewelry Making III:
Stone Setting Exploration
Fundamentals of Round Faceted Stone
Setting
Jewelry Making 101
Private Instruction

#### MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Build a Banjo Harpsichord Voicing and Regulation Introduction to Piano Technology

#### DRAFTING & DESIGN

Introduction to SketchUp





#### Letter from the Treasurer

for the Fiscal Year Ending July 31, 2018

Fiscal Year 2018 was a milestone year for NBSS. In addition to robust advancement of the *Lives & Livelihoods Campaign*, the Board of Directors completed the final steps in a key financing arrangement used to attain the School's new home at 150 North Street. While the bulk of the work to move from the previous building took place over five years ago, the legal and financial efforts have been ongoing. I am happy to report that after this long period of transition, the School once again owns its facilities outright, free of debt and without obligation to any outside entity.

Core operations resulted in total revenue of \$5.2 million and total expenses of \$6.6 million. The Fiscal Year 2018 Endowment Spending Policy allowed for the release of \$169,500 to support current operations, up from \$102,000 in the previous fiscal year. With generous support from individuals, foundations, and other outside organizations, the endowment is making critical scholarship resources available for an education in craft across all of the School's Full-Time Programs.

Outside of normal operations, the *Lives & Livelihoods Campaign* has reached approximately 85% of its goal of a \$20,000,000 endowment, producing \$8.3 million in net revenue during the fiscal year, with over \$3.5 million in pledged contributions receivable at fiscal year end.

Total invested assets increased by \$8.5 million, including over \$817,000 of interest, dividends, and appreciation. The Scholarship Endowment increased by \$3.8 million to an ending balance of \$8.2 million, the General Endowment increased by \$4.5 million to an ending balance of \$5.8 million, and Board Designated Funds increased by over \$200,000 to stand at a balance of \$3.0 million at fiscal year end. The total invested balance was \$17.0 million as of July 31, 2018.

The future is bright for many reasons, and a few deserve extra attention. First, as originally envisioned in the current Strategic Plan FY2016 – FY2020, the Board of Directors intends to freeze the cost of Full-Time Programs. Second, the increase in endowment funds will allow the School to provide significantly more tuition assistance. Third, full ownership of the building will eliminate certain tax and rental expenses, resulting in a material savings for the School. It is gratifying to enter the new academic year with such key elements coming to fruition.

( 2022

Peder Johnson, Treasurer

## Financials

\* Results reported are unaudited as of the publish date of this report.

#### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

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	7/31/2018*	7/31/2017	% CHANGE	% REVENUE
Tuition and fees, net	3,327,545	3,190,913	4.3%	64%
Contributions, gifts, and grants	953,209	1,187,061	-19.7%	18%
Continuing Education	527,762	552,710	-4.5%	10%
Project and instrument revenue	121,006	138,950	-12.9%	2%
Investment income used in operations	169,500	102,000	66.2%	3%
Other revenue	53,134	42,544	24.9%	1%
Rental revenue	24,140	48,000	-49.7%	0%
Store sales, net of cost of sales	49,483	54,061	-8.5%	1%
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Total Revenues	\$5,225,779	\$5,316,239	-1.7%	100%

## Expenses

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	7/31/2018*	7/31/2017	% CHANGE	% EXPENSE
Program	4,092,417	4,193,927	-2.4%	62%
General and administrative	2,117,124	1,640,220	29.1%	32%
Fundraising and development	432,223	328,441	31.6%	7%
Total Expenses	\$6,641,764	\$6,162,588	7.8%	100.0%
Change in Net Assets from Operations	(1,415,985)	(846,349)	67.3%	





## Non-Operating Activity

Total Non-Operating	\$517,728	\$506,736	2.2%
Gain on investments	516,407	452,771	14.1%
Interest and dividend income	301,329	155,965	93.2%
Loss on other assets	(130,508)	0	100.0%
Investment income used in operations	(169,500)	(102,000)	66.2%
	7/31/2018*	7/31/2017	% CHANGE

## Lives & Livelihoods Campaign

Total Capital Campaign Activity	\$8,318,385	\$4,511,893	84.4%
Campaign expenses	(47,827)	(94,530)	-49.4%
Campaign contributions	8,366,212	4,606,423	81.6%
	7/31/2018*	7/31/2017	% CHANGE

### Net Assets

Net Assets at end of year	\$46,467,631	\$39,047,503	19.0%
Net assets at beginning of year	39,047,503	34,785,223	12.0%
Change in net assets	7,420,128	4,172,280	77.8%
	//31/2016^	//31/201/	% CHANGE

Peder Johnson, Treasurer

McKey W. Berkman BB '11, Clerk

Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez CF '99, President

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Zakiya Thomas

Geneva S. Thorndike CF '16

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Stefanie von Clemm

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\* through December 2017

\*\* through June 2017

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Claire Fruitman CF '96

Provost

Frank Baird

Building Manager

Levi Barrett Controller

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Store/Gallery Manager

James Dergay

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Kevin Derrick

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Communications

Lillian DiGiorgio

Receptionist

Elizabeth Dowd (through May) School Administrator

Melissa Gallin

Director of Institutional Support

Somers Killian

Development Coordinator

Samuel Kjellberg (from January)

Development & Events Coordinator

Jay Knox (through January)

Director of Facilities

Bryan McGrath (from September)

Director of Student Life &

Career Services

Christine Murphy (through July)

Director of Development

Kristen Odle-Devine (from January)

Retail & Exhibit Manager

Robert O'Dwyer

Director of Admissions &

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Associate Director of Admissions

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Peter H. Talbot

Steven Soppe

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Richard Tucker\* Emily Zilber

\* through December 2017

\*\* through April 2018

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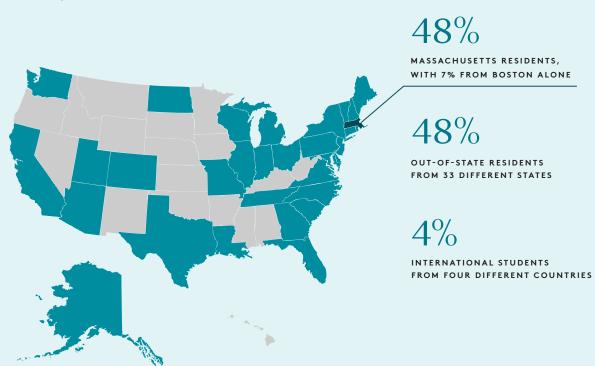
20

**FULL-TIME STUDENTS** 

AGES REPRESENTED

VETERANS ENROLLED

Residency







<del>-</del>28

## Annual Celebration of Craft

#### **Lead Sponsor (\$15,000)**

Eaton Vance Corp.

#### Presenting Sponsor (\$10,000)

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#### \$10.000+

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## Annual Fund continued

#### \$100-\$249

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Jay Worthen

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## Grants Includes current use grant contributions

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Metropolitan Music Co. Geza Mika PT '17. PA '18

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Regina Pizzeria

Reyburn Piano Service Mark Russell

Schaff Piano Supply

Thomas Schwenke

David Stanwood PA '79

Steinway & Sons Bernhard Stopper

Mary Ellen Sweeney

Valerie Thaddeus

Trattoria Il Panino Urban AdvenTours

Michael A. Virusso Michael Patrick Wheeler CF '77

Woodcraft

<del>-</del>37

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Paul Panek PA '03
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Bruce & Lynn Dayton Walter McDonald Carol O'Hare Friends of NBSS





### Scholarship Funds Includes current use scholarships funded or awarded in FY 2017

Bickford Woodworking

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## Lives & Livelihoods

## A Campaign for the Future of Craft



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