



NORTH BENNET STREET SCHOOL

Benchmarks

FALL 2009 | WWW.NBSS.ORG

A NATIONAL AUDIENCE: A national audience tunes in when NBSS is featured in a new episode of the PBS series *Craft in America*...Page 5

SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS: Financial assistance for NBSS students this year is ten times the amount awarded in 2008.....Page 3

SHOP CRAFT AS SOULCRAFT: Bestselling author Matthew Crawford addresses the class of 2009.....Page 6

Concord Museum Exhibit Opens Year of Celebration



The original paper hasn't yellowed, but behind the glass in its frame it is clear that it was once folded and put away, perhaps by Pauline Agassiz Shaw as she left the State House after the documents were signed on April 20, 1885 that formally incorporated The North Bennett (sic) Street Industrial School. In 2010 that document, and the school that it established, will be 125 years old. To mark the year, a series of events are planned that will highlight the ongoing vitality and vision of the school.

As the kick off event, North Bennet Street School and the Concord Museum have collaborated to present an exhibition titled *A Dedication to Craft: North Bennet Street School @ 125*.

The juried exhibition, which opens November 13, 2009 and runs through March 21, 2010, presents furniture, jewelry, musical instruments and book bindings crafted by the school's distinguished graduates. The discipline and process of preservation carpentry, a nationally recognized program at the school, as well as an overview of the school's history, will also be explored. "We have drawn from the extensive archives of the school that are now at Harvard's Schlesinger Library to chart the history of the school," said

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Earrings by Geraldine Kish-Perry (top), a violin scroll by Christopher Wood (top right) and shield back chair by John LaGattuta (left) are a part of the Concord Museum exhibit celebrating NBSS's 125th anniversary.



Scholarship Fund Challenge Met – and extended

In recognition of North Bennet Street School's unprecedented success in meeting the terms of a \$300,000 challenge grant for the Walter McDonald Scholarship Endowment well in advance of a three year deadline, the foundation supporting the challenge has offered to match an additional \$50,000, giving the school the opportunity to add another \$100,000 to the scholarship fund.

The terms of the initial challenge extended in 2007 required the school to raise \$300,000 for scholarships by the end of 2009. The goal was met this August when contributions reached \$307,423. As a result, the school has already received \$300,000 in matching funds. Since the scholarship endowment campaign began, the fund has grown from approximately \$200,000 to over \$1,000,000.

Disbursements from the endowment are limited to a percentage of the fund's value, but because of a decision by the Board of Directors to use operating income as well as endowment funding for scholarships, scholarship aid for the 2009-2010 year will be over \$125,000, or ten times the amount of scholarship aid offered in the 2008-2009 school year.

"We are well on our way to meeting our new goal," said Development Director Dianne Butt, "but we still need to raise an additional \$40,000 by December 31 to hit the \$350,000 mark."



SHAKER SITE ALIVE WITH ACTIVITY THIS SUMMER

"This place is idyllic; it's like being away at carpenter summer camp," said Bud Blanchard, a huge grin spreading across his face. "All of us are really excited. It's been a tremendous opportunity to study the way things are done, and to build things the way the Shakers would have."

Blanchard was one of four preservation carpentry student interns from North Bennet Street School who spent the summer at the North Family, Mount Lebanon Shaker Village, New Lebanon, NY. The North Family is owned by the Shaker Museum and Library, which will soon relocate its extensive Shaker collection from Old Chatham, NY to New Lebanon. This summer's preservation work undertaken by the student interns was the result of an innovative partnership between the historic site and North Bennet Street School which was initiated with the support of grant funding from the 1772 Foundation and the World Monuments Fund.

In addition to putting the four interns to work restoring The Granary, one of the many landmark structures at the shaker site, in August North Bennet Street School held a two-week timber frame workshop, training a group of local residents in timber frame construction and repair. The workshop was the prototype for a series of summer workshops that is being planned for 2010 and beyond.

Upon arrival in late June, the four interns set up shop in the North Family's Brethren's Workshop, which will become "permanent headquarters for the North Bennet Street School" if funding can be found to support infrastructure repairs and an ongoing program, according to David Stocks, president of the Shaker Museum and Library. One of the interns' first tasks was repairing two shaker workbenches, kept by the Museum in storage for years, and putting them back into service. The interns then turned their attention to the Granary building, creating new gutters for the building from lead-coated copper using a set of 19th century gutter making tools, crafting new cellar windows by hand using 19th century glass and wooden pegs instead of nails; and rebuilding shutters by using old photos and those still on site for reference.

Meanwhile, under a tent next to the Granary, 11 students set to work learning how to use historic hand tools and their own muscle to create a timber frame structure one week, then worked on the restoration of the timber structure of the Brethren's Workshop the next. The workshop was taught by NBSS preservation carpentry instructor Rich Friberg, who has run similar programs for 13 years and has taught students from all over the country.

THE PAULINE AGASSIZ SHAW SOCIETY – HONORING OUR ANNUAL DONORS

Each year many of our generous donors make a gift or gifts totaling \$1,000 or more in support of the school's annual programs. Those who do become members of the Pauline Agassiz Shaw Society, named in honor of the school's founder and first benefactor. This year there are 105 members of the Shaw Society, 27 of them new members.

Shaw Society donors enjoy special opportunities to continue learning about all aspects of the school and the traditional craft community in New England. This summer Shaw Society members were invited to a special celebration and tour of the partnership between the school and the Shaker Museum and Library at the North Family at Mount Lebanon. This fall members were invited to a cocktail reception and preview screening of *Process*, the episode of the Peabody Award-winning documentary *Craft in America* at WGBH Studios (see story page 5). As we look forward to celebrating our 125th Anniversary, we anticipate many more exciting events for our Shaw Society members.

If you would like to join the Shaw Society - and provide all important annual support to the school, please contact Dianne Butt at 617-227-0155 ext. 750. You may use the enclosed envelope to make your gift, or you may make your gift online on our secure server at www.nbss.org/giving.



A TECHNICAL MISSION from the Forbidden City Palace Museum, Beijing, China, visited NBSS in September. Here Philip Cates (CF '10) shows his current project to members of the delegation.

A Year of Celebration Planned

Continued from Page 1

exhibition designer and curator David Wood, "using 19th and 20th century photographs to narrate the history of the school's identity, its original intentions and its place in the broader context of Boston's cultural landscape in that period."

A number of educational programs are also scheduled to be held at the museum to complement the exhibition, including a joint presentation by Curator David Wood and NBSS President Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez on Saturday, November 14. Children and adults will have a chance to practice their hand skills at a series of craft workshops on Thanksgiving Day weekend.

Following the Concord Museum exhibit, in the spring of 2010 two exhibitions of contemporary craft will be held to highlight the contributions of North Bennet Street School. An exhibition titled *For North Bennet Street School* will open at Gallery NAGA, 62 Newbury Street, Boston, on March 22, 2010. The show will feature the work of the country's leading contemporary studio furniture

makers, from Boston's Judy Kensley McKie to Oakland California furniture maker Garry Knox Bennett. To demonstrate their support for North Bennet Street School's programs, the artists and the gallery have agreed to donate half of the proceeds from the Gallery NAGA show to the school.

The work of North Bennet Street School graduates will be shown in May at the annual Evening of Contemporary Craft which will include expanded programming to mark the anniversary.

To highlight the school's role as a center for the advancement of many craft disciplines, a series of public lectures is also being planned. Titled *The Future of Craft*, the series will include presentations from leading writers, collectors and craft artists.

Details of these and other programs scheduled to mark the school's 125th year will be announced with mailings and postings on the school's websites.

DIRECTORS ADOPT REVISED BY-LAWS

At their June, 2009 meeting, the NBSS Board of Directors approved amendments to the school's By-Laws that alter the governance structure, eliminating the positions of Executive Director and President of the Board of Directors in favor of a President of the school and a Chair of the Board of Directors. Under the new structure, the president is also a member of the board, increasing the maximum board membership from 26 to 27.

"Under the prior system the President of the Board was technically responsible for the day-to-day management of the school, including its curriculum and operations, a role that was actually being carried out by the Executive Director," explained Charles Kline, the new board chair. "From an internal operations perspective the change the board made aligned the titles more accurately with the actual responsibilities of those people elected to them. From an external perspective North Bennet Street School now has a structure that is similar to that of other educational institutions."

The governance structure of North Bennet Street School has changed several times over the course of the school's 125 year history. The original 1885 document establishing the school is signed by the nine original members of the Board of Managers, led by Pauline Agassiz Shaw. In the 1990's the advisory Board of Overseers was established and term limits were introduced, to broaden participation in the governance of the school.

ANNUAL EVENING OF CRAFT



The 10th Annual Evening of Traditional Craft Returns to its Roots

In celebration of its 10th year, the Annual Evening returned to where it all started, Hill Hurst in Wellesley, MA. Hill Hurst, the home of long-time Board member Lisa von Clemm, is part of the Hunnewell Estate and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The home was designed and built in 1883-4 for Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Horatio Hunnewell by Horatio's younger brother Henry Sargent Hunnewell of the firm Shaw and Hunnewell (the partner Shaw was the nephew of NBSS founder Pauline Agassiz Shaw). Hill Hurst has remained in the Hunnewell family since the time of its construction.

Guests were inspired by exceptional works by over 50 graduates and faculty set in this extraordinary setting. Mrs. von Clemm's book binding room was the perfect setting for fourteen book-binding exhibitors. The living room provided a beautiful backdrop for the work of jewelry, preservation carpentry and carpentry graduates. Work by furniture making graduates was showcased throughout the house. Pieces ranged from the small – a jewelry box by Andy Glenn ('08) to the tall - a Newport high chest of drawers by Jeff Roberts ('81). Piano technology students Leah Damgaard-Hansen and Rodney Yeh charmed guests with selections performed on Mrs. von Clemm's Steinway & Sons Model L, rebuilt by students of the program in 1994.

The annual evening is the school's only fundraising event. Funds from The Evening of Traditional Craft provide operating support for the school, helping the school keep tuition costs as low as possible.

FIRST EVER CALLIGRAPHY & MANUSCRIPT GILDING COURSE

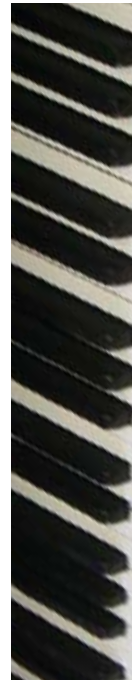


This fall NBSS welcomed master calligrapher Maryanne Grebenstein and four calligraphy students for our first-ever Three Month Calligraphy & Manuscript

Gilding Workshop, which both the school and the instructor have been planning for almost two years. In the workshop, students learn calligraphy, layout and design, manuscript gilding, and the use of computers and calligraphy. The final project is creating a hand-lettered illuminated manuscript, which they bind by hand with the assistance of our full-time bookbinding instructor, Jeff Altepeter.

Maryanne Grebenstein is a self-employed professional calligrapher, hand letterer, and graphic designer. She is the owner of the Abbey Studio in Hingham, MA, established in 1982. Maryanne studied at the Parsons School of Design, NYC, and Hood College in Frederick, MD. She is the author of *Calligraphy: A Course in Hand Lettering*.

Maryanne and Jeff will spend about a week in each other's classrooms: the full-time bookbinding students will learn some calligraphy and illumination, and Jeff will teach the three month calligraphy students some non-adhesive binding techniques for their structures. North Bennet Street School will run the calligraphy intensive every other fall, alternating with our three month bookbinding intensive.



RESTORED PIANOS FOR SALE

Work on the following pianos has been completed by the Advanced Piano Technology students, and the pianos are available for sale:

1927 MASON & HAMLIN MODEL A - \$24,000
5'8" grand piano, serial number 36165

New soundboard, bridges, block, strings, dampers, complete action rebuild with the new Wessel Nickell & Gross composite action parts, backchecks, capstans, and plate suspension bolts. Ronsen hammers. Brown mahogany original finish in good condition. Damp Chaser system installed. Awesome large full sound!!

1934 STEINWAY MODEL L - \$27,500
5'10" grand piano, serial number 277826

New soundboard, bridges, block, strings, damper felt, complete action rebuild with genuine Steinway parts, touchweight adjusted, Brown mahogany, original finish in fair condition, Damp Chaser system installed.

1918 HAZELTON BROTHERS GRAND PIANO - \$7,800.00
5'4" mahogany, serial number 68682

Soundboard and ribs repaired and refinished, cast iron plate re-bronzed, new pinblock, tuning pins, strings, and damper felt; damper and lyre system renovated, new Tokiwa hammer shanks, Ronsen hammers, complete action and damper regulation, tuning and voicing, touchweight improved, case refinished and hardware polished.

BOOKBINDING FACULTY EXPANDS



MARTHA KEARSLEY, a Portland Maine bookbinder, has joined the Bookbinding Program this September as Assistant Instructor. Martha, who is a 1995 graduate of

North Bennet Street School, has developed extensive experience in book conservation, working as a conservator for Harvard University's Weissman Preservation Center and the Houghton and Baker Libraries, as well as the library of Northwestern University.

Head Instructor Jeff Altepeter noted that several well qualified applications were received for the position, but Kearsley was "the candidate whose skills best complemented, rather than reinforced, the strengths of the existing program."

"Jeff has tremendous technical knowledge of fine binding, leather work and finishing," says Kearsley. "I'm hoping I can add my experience in book and paper conservation to a program that is already strong."

The addition of a part time instructor was planned with the recent expansion of the Bookbinding Program from 12 to 16 students, providing additional instruction for first and second year students.

TWO JOIN STAFF

For the first time in 19 years, returning students and faculty were not greeted by the warm smile of receptionist Ellie Tait. She traded in her post at the reception desk this summer for a well earned retirement.



James King took over as the public face of North Bennet Street School in September, joining the NBSS staff at the recommendation of his former

colleague at the Boston College Library, Barbara Adams Hebard.



Jay Knox also joined the administrative staff in September as the Assistant School Administrator. Jay assumes a newly created position, helping to

coordinate the day to day administration of the school from his desk in Shaw House. He previously served as the Administrator of the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University, and as Government, Community and Board Relations Manager for the Seattle Art Museum.

Sara Goodrich, who served as Assistant to the Executive Director for the past three years, left her position in September to start a new career as a massage therapist in Salem, MA.



FROM THE WORKSHOP DIRECTOR

Greetings from a very busy Workshop Program! This fall we welcome master paste paper maker **Julia Leete Rabin** to lead a two-day workshop on **paste papers, color theory, and matching colors for repair**. We are also thrilled to have **Jeff Peachey** return in February to screen a Twilight Zone episode about a secret librarian, and then lead a discussion about the issues it raises

PASTE PAPER, color theory and matching colors for repairs will be taught by Julia Leete Rabin November 13 and 14, 2009.

around authority, freedom, history, truth, the state, individuality, identity, and conformity – as they pertain to books. Jeff will also teach a **Case Binding** workshop.

In the Jewelry realm, **Patty Daunis** will be at NBSS to present an artist talk, as well as teach a class on **Conceptual Jewelry Design**.

Larry Williams and **Don McConnell** will visit the school in March for a **Plane Making workshop**, as well as a free lecture about their work and technique. **Dan Faia**, full time instructor and CFM grad, is on board for **Veneering Fundamentals** and **Sand Shaded Fan** classes.

Additionally, we're pleased to offer a **Master Keying** workshop for locksmiths, led by **DJ Dabenigno**, graduate of the full time program. This workshop is an excellent way to master Master Key systems, and can be taken as a whole or in parts. DJ will also teach an **Historic Locksmithing** workshop. Students in that class will have the opportunity to bring in skeleton locks from home and make keys by hand.

There are many more exciting workshops happening here at North Bennet Street School. Please visit our website to see them all, and to register. I always enjoy speaking to graduates and working to offer the continuing education you want to receive here. Please email me at workshop@nbss.org, or call with any questions, comments, suggestions, or ideas you have about the workshop program. We look forward to seeing you!

Thank you,
Jourdan Abel, Workshop Director



THE FIRST PUBLIC SCREENING of a new episode of the PBS series *Craft in America* drew NBSS supporters to WGBH studios this fall.

Craft in America: NBSS finds a national audience

NORTH BENNET STREET SCHOOL received national attention this fall when it was

featured in the PBS series *Craft in America*, which was televised on PBS stations across the country on October 7. The school was profiled in *Process*, the second of two episodes of the series' second season. *Process* focuses on what inspires a person to choose a career in craft, and how one acquires the knowledge and skills.

The episode includes scenes from the Cabinet and Furniture Making, Bookbinding, Locksmithing and Piano Technology programs, but most of the attention was reserved for the violin makers. Four students from the class of 2009, Joseph McDevitt, Erika Sayar, A. Scott Tribble, and Paul Trombly, were filmed making two violins, a viola and a cello. The instruments were then delivered to the Borromeo String Quartet, the resident string quartet at New England Conservatory of Music, where they were played and filmed in concert.

Two weeks before the nationwide broadcast, the *Craft in America* episode had its worldwide premiere at a special event hosted by North Bennet Street School at the WGBH TV Boston studios. Among the guests were the four instrument makers and members of the Borromeo String Quartet, as well as Jonathan Abbott, President of WGBH, Carol Sauvion, Executive Producer of *Craft in America* and a number of Trustees of the New England Conservatory.

In describing the various paths that can lead to a career as a craft artist, *Process* profiles individuals who are self taught, who have learned through apprenticeships and who have pursued formal craft training. In addition to filming at North Bennet Street School, the *Craft in America* film crew visited the 92nd Street Y in New York City and the Kansas City Art Institute, as well as the self taught potter Mark Hewitt of the Jugtown Pottery in North Carolina and book artist Julie Chen of Berkeley, CA.

"*Craft in America* explores the vitality, history and cultural significance of the craft movement in the United States and its impact on the nation's rich and diverse cultural heritage," said Executive Producer Carol Sauvion. "The goal of *Craft in America* is to educate and interest people in the world of craft, and introduce them to craft artists throughout the United States."

Process – and its companion piece, *Origins*, will be rebroadcast on PBS stations throughout the year. Dates and times will be included in local PBS listings. The first season of *Craft in America*, which aired in 2007, was viewed by over 4 million people during the first year and won a prestigious Peabody Award in 2008.

Gifford Receives Distinguished Alumnus Award



Architect, jeweler and furniture maker John F. (Jock) Gifford of Brookline, MA was named by the North Bennet Street School Alumni Council as its 2009 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year during the May graduation ceremonies held at Old North Church.

Gifford, who is founding principal of the nationally recognized residential design and construction firm Design Associates in Cambridge and Nantucket, is a graduate of

two of the school's crafts training programs -- Jewelry Making and Design in 1997, and Cabinet and Furniture Making in 2001. He currently serves as Vice Chair of the school's Board of Directors, and teaches classes at the school as a volunteer.

Gifford and his design firm have been regularly featured on the PBS series "This Old House" and in national residential design magazines such as House & Garden, House Beautiful, and Home. The firm's work has also been included in a number of books on home design.

"Any one of these accomplishments would have qualified Jock for recognition," said Dennis McCarten, chairperson of the school's Alumni Council. "But the sheer scope of his dedication to the quality of life and of instruction at North Bennet Street School left us no doubt that he was the right choice."

The Award Committee of the Alumni Council bestows the Distinguished Alumni Award at graduation ceremonies each year to a graduate who has shown outstanding achievement in his/her craft and who has advanced the body of knowledge in his/her particular trade. The award may also be extended to an NBSS graduate that gives back to the greater community through service and commitment.

Anyone affiliated with the NBSS community may submit a nomination, including a brief statement of why the nominee should receive the award, to the Director of Student and Alumni Services by regular mail or by email at studentservices@nbss.org.



THE ANNUAL STUDENT EXHIBIT was held May 8 - 15, 2009 at the Boston Architectural College. Here two BAC students admire the work of NBSS jewelry students during the opening reception. After seeing the show, one BAC student applied to the jewelry program and was accepted for the fall.

NBSS COMMENCEMENT MAY 29, 2009

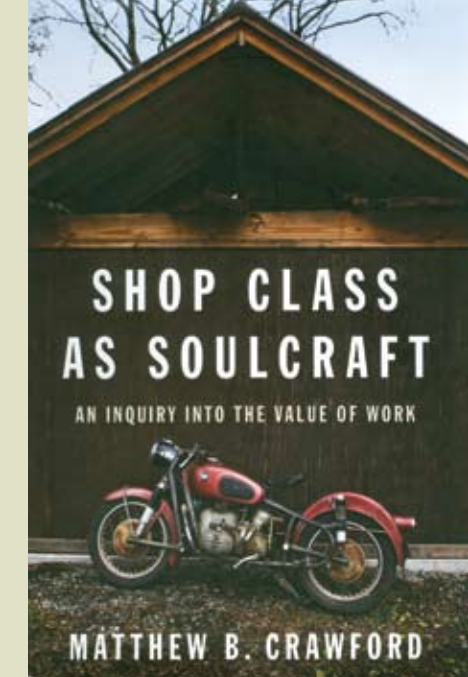
Matthew Crawford



THE SPEAKER AT GRADUATION CEREMONIES IN MAY 29, 2009 WAS MATTHEW CRAWFORD, AUTHOR OF THE BEST SELLING **SHOP CLASS AS SOUL CRAFT- AN INQUIRY INTO THE VALUE OF WORK**. CRAWFORD CAME TO NORTH BENNET STREET SCHOOL ON THE DAY HIS BOOK WAS PUBLISHED, AND ONE WEEK AFTER EXCERPTS FROM **SHOP CLASS AS SOUL CRAFT** WERE PUBLISHED IN **THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE** UNDER THE TITLE **THE CASE FOR WORKING WITH YOUR HANDS**.

A PHYSICS MAJOR, CRAWFORD PUT HIMSELF THROUGH COLLEGE WORKING AS AN ELECTRICIAN. HE EARNED A MASTERS AND THEN A PHD IN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY BEFORE BECOMING THE DIRECTOR OF A WASHINGTON THINK TANK, A JOB HE QUIT IN 2002 TO OPEN A MOTORCYCLE REPAIR SHOP. THESE ARE HIS REMARKS TO THE GRADUATING STUDENTS.

“From what I’ve seen in my visit, what you’ve received here is an education in caring about what you’re doing. Maybe that’s what craftsmanship amounts to.”



It's an interesting choice you made, to come to North Bennet Street School. I'm guessing some of you have had to explain it to family and friends -- why you were studying locksmithing rather than going to a four-year college. Why you were studying to be a piano tech instead of doing an MBA or something. Or why you left some prestigious profession to take up cabinet-making.

I quit a job at a think tank and went into business fixing motorcycles. In the first couple of years it made for some awkward moments at cocktail parties. People would ask what I do, and when I said that I fix motorcycles, there would be this moment of silence. What made it awkward was that the other person would be feeling embarrassment, and I would be feeling pride, and the two just didn't match up.

Maybe you've had similar moments. So, why make things? Why take old things that are broken and restore them to life? I wonder if the pride of the craftsman boils down to this: To be the maker of everyday objects is to assume a special place in our common life. You are no mere spectator or consumer. Rather, you are a builder of the world. To be a fixer of old things means that you set the world right.

From what I've seen in my visit, what you've received here is an education in caring about what you're doing. Maybe that's what craftsmanship amounts to. What's weird is that it's kind of counter-cultural, this craft thing that you do. These days, the most fashionable sort of business produces something virtual, on a screen. The value of the thing, if you can even call it a thing, lies not in its durability, nor in being well-adapted to some settled purpose, but rather in being exquisitely sensitive to shifting demand. I'm sure that kind of work has its satisfactions, but where the standards are always shifting, there isn't much room for the development of a specific skill through continuous practice -- the kind of steady cultivation that gives coherence to a working life.

I think the challenge is to compose a life that makes sense, the kind you can look back on and say, yeah, it added up to something. Feeling that you're connected to something larger than yourself is a big part of that. Some of you make violins. I'm told that if you're graduating, you've made six violins, a viola and a cello by now. I take it you're trying to approach an ideal of perfection, one shared by those who came before you. You're grappling with essentially the same technical challenges that Stradivari applied his genius to, and making those challenges your own. You share with him a gut-level concern for the excellence of violins. Your honor is at stake in each instrument. Your ability to discern what a great violin

actually consists of -- what you ought to be aiming at -- comes into view only slowly. Your own development in this craft, and in all of the crafts taught here, then, is situated in a larger history. Your story is part of a bigger story.

I'm not a craftsman, so I hope I have gotten these things right. What I do is fix things that belong to other people. So we do very different kinds of work, but glossing over the differences, I'd like to focus on a common aspect of various skilled manual trades and crafts, which is that you're always coming up against a hard reality, the kind that lets you know right away when you've gotten something wrong.

This leads to certain habits of mind. You pay attention to what you're doing. It was striking when Miguel was showing me around the school yesterday, how much quiet concentration was going on. One guy was preparing to do a shell-patterned inlay in a piece of furniture that was nearly finished, which as he explained was going to entail taking a router to its surface. I thought, "what if you slip?" I didn't say it out loud, because it would have been pointless. Nobody knows the answer to that question better than he does. Here's the mechanic's equivalent: I once dropped a feeler gauge down into the crankcase of a brand new motorcycle. That's the kind of mistake you tend not to repeat.

The kind of attentiveness you see in the trades and in craft work -- call it heedfulness -- seems to be tied to a larger ethic of individual responsibility. You are responsible to the piece itself, to principles of aesthetics, to the person who commissioned the work, and to future generations who may use these things you've built.

I'd like to conclude by noting that there's a lot of talk about responsibility these days, as something we need to cultivate in ourselves as a society. I think the North Bennett Street School offers some real insight into this problem. Work forms us. There is good reason to suppose that responsibility has to be installed in the foundation of your mental equipment -- at the level of perception and habit. There is an ethic of paying attention that develops in the trades through hard experience. It inflects your perception of the world, and your habitual responses to it. The consequences of a mistake are often dire and immediate, and they are undeniably the result of your own actions, for example slipping with that router. Blame isn't spread around. So it comes naturally to care about what you're doing. That strikes me as the foundation, not just for a good cabinet, but for a good life. Thank you.

N Alumni NBSS News

BOOKBINDING

Amanda Nelsen (BB '07) was featured this summer in a video recently produced by Cambridge Community Television in tandem with the work she has on display at CCTV's studio "Drive by Gallery." Additionally, her work also was on display at the Cue Art Foundation in New York City.

The Boston Public Library's international exhibition *Bound for Success* included work by **Amanda Nelsen (BB '07)** and **Jim Reid-Cunningham (BB '90)**. Each of the 117 artists included in the exhibition produced a binding of *Water*, a collection of poems.

Alison Kuller (BB '99) has her work exhibited at the Center for Maine Contemporary Art in Rockport, ME. The show's title is "Work of the Hand" and opened on October 9, 2009. Her web site is www.3stonefolios.com.

Barbara Adams Hebard (BB '90) and **Jim Reid-Cunningham (BB '90)** both published chapters in the 2009 Boston Athenaeum *Bicentennial Essays*. The chapters were titled "The Role of Women at the Boston Athenaeum" and "Conservation at the Boston Athenaeum" respectively.

Pictorial Websters: A Visual Dictionary of Curiosities by **John Carrera (BB '96)** continues to receive a lot of attention, most recently with a full page picture and write-up in the fall issue of *Boston Home* magazine.

FURNITURE

Ira Richer (CF '02) passed away on July 2, 2002 after a long illness. An avid traveler and hiker and a North End resident, Ira came to NBSS after a distinguished 40 year career in electrical engineering. He is survived by his wife, two children and three grandchildren.

Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez (CF '99) was featured as a case study for career transition in author Martha E. Mangelsdorf's new book *Finding Your Very Best Next WorkLife: Strategies for Successful Career Change* published by Ten Speed Press.

Kevin Mack (CF '08) recently completed a mahogany breakfront for Bruce Dayton, a member of the NBSS Board of Directors. His only direction for the commission was that it "look North Bennet".

Brent Karner (CF '85) founder of ClearLake Furniture in Ludlow, VT was chosen to craft the dining hall tables for the Taft School in



GOTHIC REVIVAL DETAILING was used by **BRENT KARNER (CF '85)** in the design of 62 refectory tables for the Taft School in CT.



BILLY CHUBB (PA '08) posted this photo on Facebook, saying "look what I can do." Responses ranged from "you magician" to "the second from the left, third row back looks a little loose."

Connecticut. The commission required the design and construction of 62 Gothic Revival style tables with removable tops that didn't use bolts or hooks. "It was great to return to my NBSS roots and use the engineering techniques I learned in school," says Brent. "I believe that my association with NBSS influenced Taft School to trust me with the task in the first place."

Dan Faia (CF '94) will have an article on carving tool sharpening in *Fine Woodworking: The Annual Tools and Shop* issue to be published this fall.

Nicholas Maraldo (CF '07) has taken a break from woodworking at Walter Lane Cabinetmakers in Haverhill, MA to serve in the U.S. Navy.

Thomas McAndrews (CF '03) recently graduated from The Furniture Institute of Massachusetts.

Mike Fitzpatrick (CF '07) has undertaken a massive home renovation project of the 1855 Cyrus Fay house in Westborough, MA. In the course of renovation he discovered a 19th century diary written by a direct relative of Esther Forbes, the Pulitzer prize winning author of *Johnny Tremain*. He has enlisted the help of the Northeast Document Conservation Center to restore the diary and plans to donate the book to the Historical Commission of Westborough.

Nikolaus Meller (CF '96) has started a business called the Nik Meller Collection. His first collection of designs was released in 2008 and he just released the second collection this fall. His clients include Dell Computer, National Healthcare, The National Guard and many others. His work "Solitude" is on display at the newly opened Porsche Museum in Stuttgart, Germany.

Brian Miskinis (CF '05) and his wife had a second child, Kaya Rose, born on June 13, 2009. He will also be taking part in the Sixth Annual Deerfield Arts Tour taking place in Deerfield, NH on October 17 and 18, 2009.

Seth Sparhawk (CF, '11) and his wife Rachel had their first daughter Scout Ann on August 20th in Billings, MT. Seth had only a few weeks with his family before he returned to school in Boston.

Berkenfield Design of Driggs, Idaho, co-owned by **Susan Berkenfield (CF, '02)** took home the coveted People's Choice Award at the Western Design Conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming for the second year in a row. "It's funny," Susan says, "because I made a cradle for my case piece while attending NBSS."

PIANO

David Stanwood (PA '79) was featured in the July 17, 2009 edition of the *Vineyard Gazette* of Martha's Vineyard.

The profile of Stanwood, a West Tisbury resident, traces his 30 year career in piano technology and his groundbreaking work with piano actions.

Larry Fine (PT '76) author since 1987 of *The Piano Book*, has published the *Acoustic & Digital Piano Buyer* and set up a new website www.pianobuyer.com as a complement to the publication, which will appear twice a year.



A 1922 SEEBURG ORCHESTRION, used in theatres, clubs, and any entertainment venue that desired a live music sound without the resources of a live orchestra.

Marguerite Lykes (PT '08) is working at Reblitz Restorations in Colorado Springs, CO, restoring antique musical machines, and recently completed the restoration of a 1922 Seeburg Orchestration, an instrument capable of mimicking the sound of an orchestra. The project will be featured on the cover of the November/December 2009 issue of *Mechanical Music*, the journal of the Music Box Society International.

Bryan Hartzler (PT '00) spent a third season at the Aspen Music Festival and launched a new website showcasing his piano restoration services, www.hartzlerpianos.com.

JEWELRY

Saidis Bauer Halldorsdottir (JM '08) has started her own jewelry studio in Reykjavik, Iceland, and also works for a master goldsmith. "My days are long but I enjoy every minute of it," she writes.

Ilah Cibis (JM '05) won the 2009 Reader's Choice Award for Best Jewelry Store in Sudbury, MA and a Bronze for the newspaper's region (which encompasses Wayland, Weston, Framingham and Natick, MA).

Karen Chartier (JM '03) was featured as a case study in author Martha E. Mangelsdorf's new book *Finding Your Very Best Next WorkLife: Strategies for Successful Career Change* published by Ten Speed Press.



PIANO BUYER: The new publication recently launched by **LARRY FINE (PT '76)**, long-time editor of *The Piano Book*, will appear twice yearly.

Ya-Hsun Chin (JM '10) and Chi-Lu Tu had their first baby Rita Tu on June 20th. Their daughter is doing fine and the mother is once again back in the classroom to finish up her degree!

LOCKSMITHING

Mary Jane Clark (LK '09) and her locksmithing business were recently given a large spread in her local newspaper *The Highlander* of

Rangeley, Maine. Mary Jane says that people come up to her and say "I saw your photo [in the paper]" to which she replies "How could you miss it?!" To this she adds "I worry when people say that it is a good photo of me! I think the caption should have said "Locksmith Wanted by Police!"



THE WOODWORKERS GUILD of the Lexington Arts and Crafts Society invited NBSS students to join their Annual Exhibition. Twelve students and twenty Guild members participated. The show opened in June with a well attended reception and a talk by **EARL POWELL (CFM '08)**.

PRESERVATION CARPENTRY

Robert Adam, longtime instructor and Special Advisor to Preservation Carpentry, taught the Falmouth Heritage Renewal staff in Jamaica how to install "Dutchman patches" to restore damaged portions of wood with identical types, grain and age of wood, while leaving the majority of original material untouched or unaltered.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in Manhattan recently employed the expertise of **Charles White (PC '01)**, and his company Boerum Hill Joinery, in its renovation and installation of the "Marmion Room," noted for its decorative paneling first installed in 1756 in a plantation home in northern King George County, Virginia.

Michael Dempsey (PC '09) was featured in a September, 2009 feature story in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* which described his transition from a Lorain, OH assembly line worker for Ford to a preservation carpenter.

This summer **Peter Smith (PC '04)** was the crew leader for a group of four interns from the class of 2010 assisting in the restoration of The Granary at the Mt. Lebanon NY Shaker Village. Peter works for David E. Lanoue Inc., Stockbridge, MA. (see Shaker Site article on page 2)

VIOLIN

Eric Roy (VM '95) won a Silver Medal for Tone at the 2009 International Society of Bassists (ISB) Convention for a bass that he had made. Eric has also opened a new show room for Upton Bass String Instrument Co. at 1108 Boylston Street in Boston.

Violin instructor **Roman Barnas**, joined Erika Sayer, Joe Lotito, A. Scott Tribble and Paul Trombly, all members of the class of 2009, at the WGBH TV Boston studios in September for the world premiere of *Craft in America*, a public television series on craft to be aired nationwide.



THE WINNING TEAM At the NBSS Bowling Night in September (l to r) **JONATHAN HOPEWELL (CF '11)**, **MEGAN YAU (VM '12)**, **CHRISTOPHER CAVALIERI (CA '09)**, **NICOLE AIKEN (JM '11)** and **BILL RAINFORD (PC '11)**.

NEW REPAYMENT PLAN FOR STUDENT LOANS

In late June 2009, the U.S. Department of Education announced a new repayment plan: "Income-based Repayment" (IBR). Eligibility for income-based repayment is determined by a person's income and loan size. For most eligible borrowers, monthly payments would be less than 10% of income. Payments would never exceed 15% of any income over \$16,000 a year. Those who earn less than \$16,000 would not have to make any monthly payments. After 25 years of repayment, any balance would be forgiven.

Although this repayment alternative gives graduates with substantial debts more flexibility, the plan will not be for everybody. Stretching out repayments over as much as 25 years will increase the total cost of the loan because interest will be accruing while the loan is not paid off.

Any student considering this option should also consider the previously existing options: "income contingent repayment plan" with monthly payments capped at 20% of income or the graduated repayment plan. You can also get more precise estimates of monthly payments under the various plans by using on-line calculators at www.dl.ed.gov.

Borrowers can check their eligibility for IBR at a loan calculator on the web site www.ibrinfo.org.



SUCCESS STORY

It was a warm day this summer when three new Habitat for Humanity homes were dedicated at 390 Market Street in Lawrence, MA. Two families; the Reyes (pictured above) and the Mbiyes, joined by various Habitat dignitaries, cut the ceremonial tape. After celebrations and festivities, they moved into their new homes.

Why is this significant? Because between October 2006 and May of 2009 dozens of NBSSers including students, alumni, members of their families and construction contractors who are supportive of NBSS' efforts volunteered to erect those homes. Through beautiful days, not-so-beautiful ones, and a January 2008 fire that destroyed months of work, intrepid volunteers plied their expertise and hand skills until the homes were ready.

Any NBSS alumni, or supporters who would like to find out more about the Habitat builds and perhaps even volunteer see www.nbsshhabitat.org for more information.

The Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity, and the North Bennet Street School, would like to thank the following for their volunteer efforts the past few years (those in bold volunteered three or more times):

Sean Hardeo (CA '06)
Dana Christensen (PT '06)
Pete Michelinie (CF '08)
 Shelly Corcoran (CF '98)
Monica Feeney (BB '08)
 Andrew Maloney (CA '99)
Brian Boyd (CF '07)
Dwayne Bailey (CF '06)
 Ellen Kaspern (CF, '03)
Sara Goodrich (NBSS Employee)
 Heather Proffitt (PC '05)
 Rich Friberg (CA '04)
 Celeste Devlin
 Tom Devlin
 Drew Maher
 Josh Ewart (PC '08)

Matt Emery (CF '08)
 Colleen Chapin (PC '06)
Eric "Red" Hinds (CA '08)
 Marguerite Lykes (PT '08)
 Katherine Westermann (BB '09)
 Aude Gabory (BB '09)
 Andy Reach (PA '09)
Eli Cleveland (CF '09)
 Robert McSwegin (CF '09)
Jeff Citro (CF '09)
 Ed Frontino (CA '09)
 Wendy Withrow (BB '09)
Christopher Dowd (PC '09)
 Erika Sayar (nee Safran) (VM '09)
 JP Sayar
 Evan Heraty (PC '09)
Gayle Koyanagi (JM '09)
 Nancy Maloney (CF '09)
Gary Bosse (CF '09)
 Kim Toigo (PC '06)
 Geoff Shaw (PC '94)
 Scott Corneille (PA '10)
Justin Hess (VM '12)
 Paul Piszczek (PT '09)
 Esther Piszczek
 Denise Fenoglio (JM '07)
 Adrian Rousson
 Julian Rousson
 Sara Purgus (PC '10)
 Anthony Long (CA '09)
 Brendan Delaney (CA '08)
Mark Shriner (CA '08)
 Jan McCloud (PA '10)
 Nick Mamakos (CF '10)
 David LeBlanc (CA '09)
 Glenn Batten (of Essex Restoration)
 Hallie Pinta (of Heritage Modular Construction)
Dorime "Duke" Ducarmel (CA '09)
 Kristie Connolly (PC '02)
 John Langston (PT '09)
 David Bardes (of The Paris Building Group)
 Ryan Rhoades (CF '08)
 Rick Swanston (CA '09)
 Alexa Holmes (CF '06)
Keith McIntosh (CF '08)
 Adam Ricci (CA '02)
 Jim McIsaac (PC '09)
 Anthony Ferrigno (CF '02)
 Christopher Hutcheson (PC '06)
 Jonathan Stevens (PC '02)



ROBERT ADAM RECEIVES ASKINS AWARD

"The principal architect of one of the most successful full-time preservation skills training program in the country."

With that introduction, Robert Adam, longtime preservation carpentry instructor and current Special Advisor to the program, was honored by the Preservation Trades Network with the 2009 Askins Achievement Award for outstanding contributions to the preservation trades. Adam was recognized for his role in envisioning "preservation training that would be unique in the field: a curriculum-based training program to teach comprehensive traditional carpentry skills in the classroom and shop and on projects chosen to teach and reinforce those skills."

The Askins Achievement Award criteria includes "contributions to the preservation trades for: the continuance of traditional building skills, advocacy of training in preservation trades, practicing a building trade at master level of skill and knowledge, and extraordinary effort given to advancing the awareness of traditional building trade skills and knowledge."

"Robert Adam has been a tireless advocate for thorough skills training in traditional building trades for more than thirty years," said NBSS President Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez, "and the Askins Award is well deserved recognition of his contributions. He has provided critical assistance to many house museums and historic sites hampered by meager budgets but responsible for saving our architectural heritage. Setting a high standard of community involvement for his students and his field, Mr. Adam has served as a volunteer and consultant on projects throughout New England. In short, Robert Adam represents in every way the qualities, accomplishments and dedication that is envisioned for the recipient of the Askins Achievement Award."

The award was presented at the August, 2009 annual conference of the Preservation Trades Network in Leadville, CO.



North Bennet Street School participates in a variety of cultural festivals throughout the year, thanks in part to funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. We are grateful to the Council for this ongoing support.

Benchmarks

The newsletter of the **North Bennet Street School**
 39 North Bennet Street
 Boston, MA 02113
 (617) 227-0155

Do you have news to share?
 Contact us at newsletter@nbss.org

NBSS Calendar

November 6 – 7, 2009
NBSS ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE
 North Bennet Street School

November 13, 2009 – March 21, 2010
A DEDICATION TO CRAFT: NBSS@ 125
 Concord Museum, Concord, MA

December 11-13, 2009
CRAFT BOSTON HOLIDAY
 The Cyclorama at Boston Center for the Arts

January 22, 2010
ARTIST TALK WITH JEWELER PATTY DAUNIS
 Free lecture at NBSS

February 18, 2010
THE OBSOLETE MAN AND THE OBSOLETE BOOK? A CONVERSATION WITH JEFF PEACHEY
 Free lecture at NBSS

February 27, 2010
HOW TO APPROACH A GALLERY TO SELL YOUR WORK
 North Bennet Street School

March 2, 2010
WOODEN MOLDING PLANE MAKING LECTURE: ARTIST TALK WITH LARRY WILLIAMS & DON MCCONNELL
 Free lecture at NBSS

March 27, 2010
FOURTH ANNUAL STUDENT ALUMNI PARTY
 Charles River Museum of Industry, Waltham

March 5 – 27, 2010
FOR NORTH BENNET STREET
 Gallery NAGA, 67 Newbury St., Boston

April 9 – 11, 2010
CRAFT BOSTON
 Seaport World Trade Center, Boston

April 2010
ANNUAL STUDENT EXHIBITION OF STUDENT WORK
 Date and location TBD

June 4, 2010
GRADUATION EXERCISES
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17TH ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

Friday, November 6, 2009 10am – 2pm
(Boston and Arlington Locations)

Saturday, November 7, 2009 10am – 3pm
(Boston Location)

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