



NORTH BENNET STREET SCHOOL

Benchmarks

NORTH BENNET ST. SCHOOL

AN EDUCATION IN CRAFTSMANSHIP



NEW FURNITURE DESIGN CERTIFICATE

Created through the synergy of the extraordinary and complementary strengths of two Boston institutions—North Bennet Street School and Massachusetts College of Art and Design – a newly established Furniture Design Certificate Program offers a unique in-depth program focused on the design and craft of studio furniture.

Continued on p. 4

Over the next several months, readers of **Benchmarks**, visitors to the school website and others who interact with NBSS materials will begin to see a transformation. A bit brighter, a little cleaner, a fresher graphic face will begin to emerge. The first stage of the process is a new logo, in print here for the first time. Finely crafted by Katie Magee, Monica Hargrove, and Tammy Dayton of the Boston design firm Moth Design, the new logo is based on the classic serif font, Requiem, and is composed of finely detailed, unique, letter forms. The new NBSS-named school colors are pottery-glaze gold (inspired by Saturday Evening Girls Pottery) and letterpress gray.

Soon, the new logo will be joined by other new colors, new photography and new font and graphic treatments. Stay tuned and watch as the new look emerges.

FALL 2010 | WWW.NBSS.ORG

JOHN ELIOT SCHOOL PROGRAM EXPANDS p. 3

TRAVEL TO EUROPE WITH NBSS p. 15

STUDENT EXHIBIT EXTENDED p. 2

Following is the list of all those who volunteered their time to “man the floor” during the months of July and August.

Jade Drakes (JM '08)
 Joel Antonioli (CF '11)
 Bob Miller (CF '11)
 Calvina Wong (LK '07)
 Kady Doyle (JM '11)
 Corey Swan (VM '12)
 Mark Ferioli (CF '11)
 Augie DeHainaut (CF '10)
 John Thorrell (VM '12)
 Mini-Ann Polumbaum (PT '99)
 Celine Lombardi (BB '11)
 Yen-Fang Wang (JM '10)
 Daniel Marquand (BB '11)
 Laurie Evans (JM '11)
 Anne McLain (BB '10)
 Erin DeLuca (JM '11)
 Ryan Messier (CF '11)
 Jan McCloud (PA '10)
 Michael Codispoti (CF '11)
 Colin Urbina (BB '11)
 Nick Mamakos (CF '10)
 Andy Pierce (CF '11)
 Jeff Altepeter (BB '99)
 Cedar Stanistreet (VM '11)
 Valerie Fendt (BB '10)
 Earl Powell (CF '08)
 Reid Anderson (CF '10)
 Maria Schauer
NBSS Business Office
 Brian Bram
Husband of Claire Fruitman
 Christo Wood (VM '05)
Alumni Council Member
 Xiaodan Liu (PA '08)
Alumni Council Member
 Bill Rainford (PC '11)
 Claire Fruitman (CF '96)
NBSS Associate Director
 Denise Fenoglio (JM '06)
Alumni Council Chair
 Rene Perez (PA '10)
 Steve Kinnane (CF '10)
 Dianne Butt
NBSS Director of Development
 James King,
NBSS Admissions
 Jay Knox
NBSS Assistant School Administrator
 Tracy Herren (LK '10)



ANNUAL STUDENT EXHIBIT EXTENDED THREE MONTHS

In May of this year, the annual student exhibit was held at the historic Old Corner Bookstore in Boston's Downtown Crossing. The exhibit was so successful that its one month stay was extended to two... and then three months. Thousands of Bostonians and tourists had the opportunity to see the extraordinary work of NBSS students and learn more about the school.

What made this year's extended exhibit possible was the time and effort of the students (as well as some dedicated NBSS alumni). Forty NBSSers spent time monitoring the gallery, talking to visitors and supporting this unique exhibit.

"I enjoyed working at the exhibit because it allowed me to meet many different people and tell them about our school and its mission," says **Katherine "Kady" Doyle (JM '11)**. Kady not only exhibited her work, she acted as a de-facto Assistant Manager of the show - along with **Daniel Marquand (BB '11)** and **Bob Miller (CF '11)**. "and I was able to show off my Boston history skills!" she adds.

"I watched a famished family of eight from the midwest, intending to stop in just to escape the heat of the freedom trail, stay for 30 minutes engrossed in the work," says volunteer **Christo Wood (VM '05)**. "watching kids marvel at things made by hand was a heart-swelling opportunity."

As a wonderful endnote, the exhibit resulted in a record number of sales and commissions. After the pieces were removed from the exhibit, volunteers shipped pieces not only within Massachusetts (Holliston, Foxboro, Cambridge) but also to upstate New York and Alaska. In all, more than \$10,000 in commissions and sales were made as a result of the exhibit.

"We made new friends from all over the world - I met people from everywhere - and from right around the corner who had never heard of the school, or who had always wondered what the school was about," says Dianne Butt - Director of Development. "I met an alumna's mother who was visiting from Japan. Everyone - from old to young - was fascinated by the work on display... It was wonderful to see visitors' reactions and hear their praise for what the students had done and what the school teaches."

The exhibit in the 299 year old Boston landmark was made possible through the school's ongoing relationship with Historic Boston Inc. (whose offices are in the Old Corner Bookstore building). In the early- to mid-19th century, the building was home to the bookseller and publisher Ticknor and Fields. Well-known authors Longfellow, Hawthorne, Poe and Emerson (among many others) were frequent visitors and were first published by Ticknor and Fields. Charles Dickens visited the bookstore in the 1830s. With such a wealth of history and its great location, the historic site was an ideal location for the exhibit and a wonderful example of the ongoing partnership between Historic Boston and the school.



Eliot School Partnership Expands

Initially designed for sixth grade students, the Spring 2010 woodworking pilot program with the John Eliot K-8 School, funded in part by the Boston Foundation for Architecture, was so successful that the project has been expanded to include seventh- and eighth-grade students. Major funding for the three-year program comes from the Mabel Louise Riley Foundation. The sixth grade program is also funded by a grant from the Frances R. Dewing Foundation and the pine for student projects has been generously donated by Highland Hardwoods in Brentwood, New Hampshire.

The program is based on the Swedish Sloyd system of woodworking instruction that was adapted for American schools under the guidance of NBSS founder Pauline Agassiz Shaw. The students participate in an 18-week program and receive instruction in basic hand skills, tools and their uses, the properties of materials and their impact on the design and making of the built environment. Each student

completes two individual projects – a box and a spoon – and one group project which remains in their Eliot School classrooms as visual evidence of their work and as a teaching tool. The students learn by using hand tools, even the simplest of which embody significant engineering challenges. They gain an understanding of the ways in which tools influence the construction process and the design of objects. They learn about materials and the process that transforms a tree to rough lumber and ultimately to a useful object. Through this training, they better understand what is meant by “craftsmanship”.

The second floor of the Greener Building has been equipped as a classroom for the three-year project. **Andy Glenn (CF '06)** and **Dan Cheek (CF '10)** are teaching the pilot classes. The advisory committee for the program includes **Brian Kelly (CF '85)**, **Patty Ryan (CF '00)** and Paul Ruhlmann of Buckingham Brown & Nichols School.



An energized crowd gathered at the school on September 16 to celebrate with **Walter McDonald** who retired this year after 34 years helping lead the school and shape its growth.



STUDENT AND ALUMNI PARTY A ROUSING SUCCESS.

Another year, another reason to celebrate NBSS! And neither wind, nor rain, nor substantial flooding could stop us. Originally scheduled for March 27, last spring's record rains flooded the party venue under 18 inches of Charles River water. On a much drier May 7, a substantial and well-dressed crowd of NBSS supporters turned out for the rescheduled 4th annual Alumni and Student Party.

The Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation was, once again, a wonderful venue. Alumni and current NBSS students from all departments mingled between vintage models of bikes, cases of clocks and watches and classic tools galore. West Newton's Ceili Band provided live Old Time tunes during this evening of great food and fellowship. The coveted door prizes were awarded to a lucky few and a silent auction of donated goods and services added suspense to the evening. **Christo Wood (VMR '06)** made a delicious and beautiful cake to celebrate the 125th anniversary in style.

Alumni Council members worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the evening and overcome challenges when flooding from the Charles River forced the museum to close for two months. We are grateful for the generous support of the party sponsors who helped make the party possible and to the members of the Alumni Council for their hard work and commitment to bringing alumni and students together for such fun events. Thanks also to those who came to meet, reconnect and party in good company. See you next year!

By **Amanda Nelsen (BB '07)**

PARTNERSHIPS ENRICH PROGRAMS

By connecting to the rich higher-education resources in the greater Boston area and beyond, North Bennet Street School has developed (or is in the process of developing) collaborations that enrich our programs, introduce new students to the school and enhance the learning environment.

PARTNERS INCLUDE:

Simmons College is working on a three-year Masters in Book Conservation program that would bring students to NBSS and Simmons.

Massachusetts College of Art and Design grants undergraduate credit for several NBSS bookbinding, woodworking and carpentry courses and the two schools have just launched a joint certificate program in furniture design (see story p. 1).

Bunker Hill Community College provides credit for NBSS classes for students enrolled in the certificate in Entrepreneurship or the Associate of Science Degree in Business Administration.

Boston Architectural College sends furniture design students to NBSS for hands-on bench experience to enhance their Interior Design program.

John Eliot School, a North End K-8 public school sends 6th, 7th and 8th graders to NBSS for weekly woodworking classes (see p. 3).

The Boston Athenaeum and the **Boston Public Library** have established formal assistantship positions with the bookbinding program.

New England Conservatory of Music has established an assistantship program with the Piano Technology Department. Longstanding assistantship programs at **Harvard University** and **Boston University** also employ NBSS piano technology students.

Historic Boston is our partner in Handmade Houses, an innovative preservation training program that engages preservation carpentry students in a revolving fund project funded by the 1772 Foundation.

Stonybrook Fine Arts, a metalworking studio in Jamaica Plain, works with us to offer welding, mold making and electrolytic etching workshops.

Shaker Museum and Library at the Mount Lebanon Saker Village in New York is a partner in several summer workshops and provides summer internships for preservation carpentry students.

NEW FURNITURE DESIGN CERTIFICATE Continued from p. 1

Vision, Process and Craft The program emphasizes design as an iterative process in the creation of studio furniture and focuses on the development of each student as an artist/designer/craftsperson. Students who complete the certificate program leave with the ability to design and build unique studio furniture, limited production pieces and prototype furniture, and a basic understanding of issues, materials and production that are fundamental to working in the contract furniture field.

A Faculty of Artists and Makers The faculty includes accomplished woodworkers, designers and craftspeople who are experienced educators. Individual faculty members draw on their experience and expertise to guide students through projects of increasing complexity and help students build skills in design and both hand and machine woodworking.

Curriculum to Challenge and Inspire Core courses and studio electives are structured to build skills while developing each student's unique vision and artistic identity.

Beginning with a foundation in design process and an overview of the history of furniture, students then engage in a series of studios where they are able to build projects of increasing sophistication. The program culminates in a significant project reflective of the student's unique skills and vision and a professional practice seminar that provides an understanding of design industry standards and practices to help students transition to the work place. The first classes in this new venture begin in February. Learn more at www.massart.edu or www.nbss.edu.

Note: This collaboration with Massachusetts College of Art and Design is one of many valuable partnerships with other education institutions and related organizations. See the sidebar on this page for a more complete list of institutional partners.

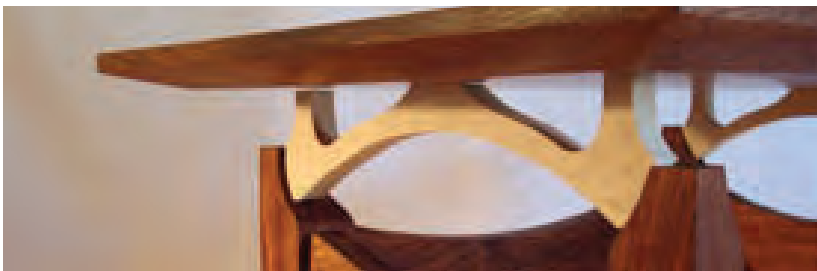


TABLE BY TOM RUSSELL AND BENCH BY MITCH RYERSON, faculty member in the Furniture Design Certificate Program.

HIGH-TECH SAWS ADDED TO NBSS PROGRAMS

Four new table saws incorporating the latest safety technology are being added to the school's machine rooms this fall. The saws incorporate flesh-sensing technology that stops the blade within a fraction of a second when it comes into contact with the operator's skin. The safety device is available only on saws manufactured by SawStop, and their purchase was made possible through the generosity of the manufacturer and a grant from the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association (MCMA).

"We are very grateful for the generous support SawStop has provided and the support we have received for many years from MCMA," said Claire Fruitman, Associate Director, "The saws will be used by students in the carpentry, preservation carpentry, furniture, piano and workshop programs, and are a significant addition to our safety programs."

SawStop's technology has been on the market more than five years, but a recent jury award of \$1.5 million by the U. S. District Court in Boston for a table saw injury brought renewed attention to the flesh-sensing technology. In that lawsuit, a worker installing oak flooring using a portable table saw without a guard, splitter or fence, successfully argued that the standard design of American table saws is defective because it does not include available safety technology.

As a result of the publicity and articles about the lawsuit, an unprecedented number of letters-to-the-editor were generated in the woodworking press. Some readers argued that the plaintiff was working in an unsafe manner and should accept personal responsibility, while others decried the failure of an industry to adopt all available technology.

"We've had tons of letters about the recent lawsuit against Ryobi for a benchtop tablesaw injury, coming down on both sides of the decision," says Fine Woodworking editor Asa Christiana. "Many wonder if the SawStop technology will ever be feasible in a small, portable saw exposed to the elements, but no one disputes the fact that it could have prevented the accident."

At NBSS, the SawStop table saws will be used by students along with saws by other manufacturers. "It is important that we offer our students training in the safe operation of the wide range of machine tools that they can expect to encounter as they work in their field," said Fruitman.



NBSS Takes Leading Role in National Gathering of Furniture Makers

FIERCE COMPETITION: Mechanized tables designed and built by members of The Furniture Society fought to the death at the annual Furniture Society conference held this June at MIT.

Furniture makers from across the country and around the world converged on Boston this summer for the annual conference of The Furniture Society, an international non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the art of furniture making. North Bennet Street School played a prominent role in the week-long conference, which was organized by **Richard Oedel (CF '05)**, chair of the local conference committee. Events included tours of local studios and museums and three days of exhibitions, artists' presentations, panel discussions and informal networking.

Before the conference formally convened, current and former NBSS instructors **Steve Brown (CF '90)**, **Dan Faia (CF '94)** and **Will Neptune (CF '81)** and Tennessee furniture maker Alf Sharp taught a two-day workshop on techniques of furniture construction used in historic furniture forms. During the conference, Brown, Faia and Neptune also participated in technical sessions by demonstrating a number of joinery and carving techniques that are a part of the school's full-time furniture making curriculum.

A panel discussion on Sloyd, a system of manual arts training for middle school students that is regaining popularity across the country, highlighted the role of North Bennet Street School in the introduction of Sloyd to America in the 1890s.

The society's annual Award of Distinction, honoring lifetime achievement in the field of furniture making, was presented to California furniture maker John Cederquist by NBSS President Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez, chair of the Award of Distinction Committee. Gómez-Ibáñez served as president of The Furniture Society from 2002 to 2006.

It wasn't all business. "Table Fights", a World Wrestling inspired event that featured a makeshift ring in which pairs of mechanized tables attacked each other was organized by **Shaun Bullens (CF '05)** and attracted a raucous group of cheering onlookers.

"We made a formal proposal to bring the conference to Boston over two years ago," said Oedel, "and we have been working on it seriously for the past year. I felt that Boston was a great venue... with so many great furniture makers and museums in the area, it was sure to be a success."

Over 400 furniture makers, educators, collectors and others interested in the art of furniture making attended the conference, which was hosted in Cambridge by MIT.

AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY THIS JUNE, THE 2010 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD WAS PRESENTED TO EVA MARTIN, A 2003 GRADUATE OF THE JEWELRY PROGRAM.



Eva Martin recently moved back to the United States after working for several years in Queensland, Australia where she distinguished herself with

her exceptional jewelry designs and fabrication. In the seven years since her graduation, Eva has won several major awards including the 2006 Saul Bell Design Award Grand Prize for her Carouseling Cufflinks and she was a finalist for the same award in 2009. Eva was the recipient of the 2008 Lapidary Journal Jewelry Arts Award and her sterling silver Queensland Sugar Spoon was designated "Best Memento" in the Tourism Queensland memento competition in 2006.

Unable to attend the presentation, Martin expressed her indebtedness to NBSS in remarks read by Alumni Council Chair, **Dennis McCarten, (VM '06)**: "At NBSS I began to understand just how deeply satisfying and meaningful a career in craftsmanship could be... I still imagine my pieces will be scrutinized by Ro with her eagle eye and loupe before they leave my bench. It keeps me from producing anything but my best work. I am greatly indebted to both Ro and Jock and to NBSS for a career which is so deeply satisfying—one that makes me smile from ear to ear."

Rosemary (Ro) Trainor, NBSS Jewelry Instructor remarked, "there are times when we interview candidates for the jewelry program who say "I'm coming here because I want to be like Eva Martin" and I say "Well then move your bed in here, because as a student she was at her bench ALL the time. She was in early and stayed late every single day... she was motivated and focused on what she wanted to achieve and I do believe she would have moved her bed in here if she could have. It was a pleasure to be her instructor."

The Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA) is awarded to a graduate who has excelled in their career and exemplifies the values of fine craftsmanship by the Alumni Council. For more information about the Alumni Council and its activities, go to www.nbssa-lumni.org.



Addressing 95 graduates and their families assembled on the school's 125th anniversary year, Edward S. Cooke Jr. proclaimed that "North

Bennet Street School is a bully pulpit for craft," and argued that the school's enduring presence proves the viability of craft in an industrial society.

"It is not an either/or proposition," said Cooke, Professor of History of Art, American Decorative Arts and Material Culture at Yale University. "I would like to focus on the possibility of a both/and proposition" with "layered economies...where craft complements, rather than competes with mass marketing and the dominance of industrial production."

Cooke described the craft-based economy he encountered in a recent trip to India, where the drinking cups potters produce, the agricultural tools blacksmiths make and the brass trays made by metal workers compete successfully with mass-produced products from China by connecting with their customers through mutually understood technology and expectations.

He contrasted skilled traditional Indian potters, who can make a drinking vessel in under two minutes using a kick wheel, a terra cotta "stake" and a wooden paddle,

with a pottery student at the Calcutta College of Art and Craft who, using an electric powered wheel, took 15 minutes to make a form, "constantly stopping to eyeball the shape."

"Muscle memory, touch and sound trump awkwardness, analysis and preciousness" said Cooke.

Linking the traditional Indian potters he met to the assembled graduates, Cooke noted that the education provided by North Bennet Street School was "skill-based", as opposed to the "impression-oriented" education of an art or design school. He observed that while art and design professionals often measure their success by popular acceptance and financial reward, skill-based professionals are more apt to find satisfaction through producing useful objects or services. "Self fulfillment", he predicted, will come from "the habits of skill and engagement."

"The important thing for each of you," said Cooke, "is to recognize your own values and priorities and then to pursue the social economy that permits you to stay true to them."

PETER VANDERWARKER assembled the class of 2010 for a group picture in front of the old 39 North Bennet Street entrance, creating a companion image to an NBSS archive photograph of students circa 1910.

The Annual Fund Needs You

GIFTS TO THE ANNUAL FUND HELP NURTURE THE TRADITION OF FINE CRAFTSMANSHIP.

A gift to the Fund supports our scholarship initiative, ensures the excellence of our educational programs and enhances our efforts to foster public awareness of and greater appreciation for traditional craftsmanship. An envelope is enclosed for your contribution.

Why I support the NBSS Annual Fund



“...for the last dozen years I have made it a priority to make a financial contribution...”

Paula Garbarino (CA '80, CF '88)

Essential in the nature of the human being is the drive to be a maker. Early humans made tools to hunt, to farm, to build shelter, to make useful things; and they even had the urge to decorate those useful objects. From trial and error there came to be known the very best ways of making based

on the attributes of the materials at hand and the vast capability of the human hand. Skill was developed and passed on. Industrialization added new capability but it also contributed to the depletion of the human element and the aspects of making that require precise skills. Long standing skills were lost.

In my lifetime, I've seen an impressive growth in hobby-oriented handcraft (publications, stores, TV shows) while at the same time, institutions that preserve traditional skills have died. Across the country, technical training at all levels has decreased and often disappeared. It is sad to think how many people are deprived of the pleasure of manual training.

I was a maker from childhood, creating miniature houses and furniture, needlecraft, beads, pottery and stained glass. I can't conceive of my life without handwork to do. The training in both the carpentry and furniture-making programs provided the opportunity to work and excel in areas I wouldn't previously (as a woman) have dreamed possible.

I've said it for years (and heard it from many others) that the time spent at NBSS was the best in my life. I'm still awake to the miracle that I can make a living at what I love to do. I continue to visit the school... always leaving stimulated and inspired by the student work and impressed with how much the organization does to validate hand-skill training.

After graduating, I established my business. I've worked with crews to build two houses, built several kitchens and more than one hundred pieces of furniture. The financial road has been bumpy, but for the last dozen years I have made it a priority to make a financial contribution to North Bennet Street School -- a very special place.

New Students Arrive



On Tuesday, September 7, faculty and staff welcomed seventy-eight new students to North Bennet Street School. Quiet anticipation was the mood as students lined up for school ID photos and filled out forms. After whirlwind tours of the school, the students met in their departments as a group for the first time. By Wednesday afternoon, joined by returning students, the atmosphere was decidedly more relaxed and new students were absorbed in their work.

Five international students were among the newbies on opening day. Santiago Hinves-Ballesta from Spain, Ka Chun Ng from Hong Kong, Liao Liu from China and Benjamin Fraser

from Australia in Piano Technology and Juan Pablo Blanco from Columbia in Cabinet and Furniture Making.

The generous financial contributions of NBSS alumni and other supporters makes it possible for the school to provide much needed scholarships to an increasing number of students. Over \$112,950 of scholarship support was awarded to 49 students for the 2010-2011 year. In addition, 21 students received federal and state grants.

After a quiet summer, the sound of saws, sanders, and strings are mingled with laughter in the hallways and the hush of students deep in concentration. School is now in session.

- **149 students enrolled**
- **78 new students in September 2010**
- **23% female (34 students)**
- **18 - 61 years old**
- **From 20 states and 6 countries (US, Spain, Hong Kong, Australia, China, Columbia)**
- **34% of students receive scholarships and/or grants**
- **\$112,950 scholarships awarded**
- **13 students enrolled in two three-month intensive classes, one in furniture making and one in bookbinding.**

Pictured above, the **workshop students** after enjoying a pizza lunch in early September.



11th Annual Evening of

TRADITIONAL CRAFT— CELEBRATING 125 YEARS



GUESTS ENJOYED THE PIANO MUSIC PLAYED by Helen Weston, a piano technology student, on a Steinway Model A piano completely restored by Mary Logue ('87). Board members and guests Carl Ferenbach, Judy Ferenbach, Shirley Harris and Burt Harris smiled for the camera as they toasted 125 years.



On the evening of May 18, 2010 a record-breaking crowd of 365 friends and supporters of North Bennet Street School gathered to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding of the school by visionary Pauline Agassiz Shaw.

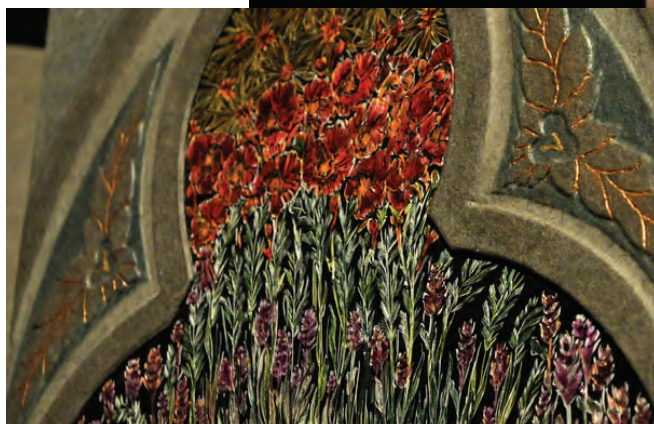
The 11th Annual Evening of Traditional Craft, the premier event in a series of events held to celebrate this milestone anniversary, was held at WGBH's Studios in Boston. Mayor Thomas M. Menino served as Honorary Chair and **Peter Feinmann (CA '83)** was Chair of the event.

Annual Evening showcases the extraordinary work of alumni and provides an unparalleled opportunity for the community of students, staff, board members and supporters who contribute to this extraordinary school to celebrate the school's many achievements and the vision for its future.

Guests viewed more than 65 hand-crafted pieces and other exhibits by alumni of the school's eight programs. A multimedia presentation highlighted the school's history, current programs and an excerpt from the PBS special *Craft in America* series featuring the school. Guests left with cookies in the shape of tools and a copy of the City of Boston's inspiring proclamation proclaiming the week of May 17 – 23, 2010 North Bennet Street School Week.



Kevin M. Ainsworth ('09), Amanda Aker ('07), Jeffrey Altepeter ('99), Christina Amato ('07), Alegria Barclay ('07), Walter Beebe-Center ('94), Matthew Blackburn ('06), Cathie Bobzin ('06), Anthony Bondi ('95), Greg Brown ('10), Cynthia Fields-Bélanger ('97), W. Mickey Callahan ('89), Ilah Cibis ('05), Eli Cleveland ('09), Ken Craggs ('07), Paul Crowley ('03), Bruce Eaton ('06), Denise Fenoglio ('06), Tony Ferrigno ('02), Laura Fuoco ('09), Richard Friberg ('04), Paula Garbarino ('88), Andrew Glenn ('08), Gary Green ('96), Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez ('99), Erin Hanley ('07), Barbara Adams Hebard ('90), John Herbert ('06), Alexa Holmes ('06), Matt Huffman ('09), Charlie Kline ('05), Allison Kuller ('99), Amy Lapidow ('95), Nancy Lev-Alexander ('91), Thomas J. MacDonald ('02), Kevin Mack ('08), Marie Oedel ('02), Richard Oedel ('05), Devin Ream ('09), Emily Scott ('07), A. Scott Tribble ('09), Katherine Westermann ('09), Christo Wood ('05)



The WGBH studio was a wonderful backdrop for the work of alumni. Books and jewelry in cases and furniture on risers were dramatically lit and a pleasure to view. The evening's success is due in large part to the makers listed above who shared their work with us.

Alumni NBSS News

BOOKBINDING

Bexx Caswell (BB '09) writes "I am currently working part-time at MIT as the Vail Conservation Intern where I am repairing a collection of 25,000 books related to electricity and animal magnetism. Along with fellow alum **Katherine Westermann (BB '09)**, I run White Sparrow Bindery, which specializes in journals, albums, and miniature books. I recently had a fine binding in the Pendleton Round-Up at 100 Design Binding Competition at the Pendleton Center for the Arts, and hope to participate in more fine binding competitions in the future."

Searching a Persian-language database for publications on bookbinding, **Jake Benson (BB '95)** was astonished to find an article on the bookbinding program at NBSS! The article was published in the professional Iranian journal *Payam-e Baharestan* by the Library of the National Islamic Council, June, 2005, and gives an overview of the NBSS bookbinding program, and specifically describes what students learn in the first and second years, and a brief description of former instructor **Mark Andersson (BB '92)** and his professional career.

James Reid-Cunningham (BB '90), **Amy Lapidow (BB '95)** and instructor **Jeff Altepeter (BB '99)** were among the book artists whose work was shown in Boston Book Art, an exhibition at the Bunker Hill Community College art gallery this fall.

Ken Gilbert (BB '10) and his career change from high tech training to hand bookbinding was featured in a July article in the Westborough MA *Community Advocate*. He has started a bindery at his home and works on the repair and binding of books, as he says, "that are special on the inside."



A DESERT OASIS After living in a trailer for two years, former instructor **MARK ANDERSSON (BB '92)** has completed work on his new house in Tuscon AZ, just in time to host NBSS graduates attending the Guild of Book Workers conference in Tuscon in October. Mark is the chair of the conference's local host committee.

Creating art from junk mail is one of the interests of **Amanda Nelsen (BB '07)**. Her work with 100 members of the Wellesley community on a mammoth binding of discarded printouts from Wellesley College computers was the subject of an article in the summer 2010 Wellesley College alumnae magazine.



ONE HUNDRED MEMBERS of the Wellesley College community produced a 16 feet long binding using discarded printouts retrieved from recycling bins. The conductor of the bookbinding orchestra was **Amanda Nelsen (BB '07)**, the Book Arts Program's artist in residence. The binding is shown here on display at the College science center.

This summer **Mary McMillen (BB '90)** described and demonstrated techniques for the preservation of books and documents at the Houston Texas Metropolitan Research Center, where she is a staff member, after working for 25 years in the Harvard University library system.

Tim Oliverson (BB '08) joined the U.S. Army in November 2009 and is stationed with his family in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He is assigned to 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division and is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan in the Spring of 2011.



Judith Cohen (BB'98) will have work exhibited at the Philadelphia Art Museum in November.

Arini Esarey (BB '11) and three fellow artists collaborated on a photography and bookbinding project to benefit the scholarship program at the Oxbow School of Art in Saugatuck MI. Forming the letters of the alphabet with their bodies, they created a bound "Abecedary" with the 26 images.

Katie Smith (BB '09) is finishing a Master's Degree in Book Conservation at West Dean College.



AUDE GABORY (BB '09) welcomed daughter Julien on May 9. Aude is doing conservation work part time at the University of Chicago library.

Wendy Withrow (BB '08) and her husband Matthew Reidsma welcomed Mira Simone Reidsma Withrow on June 14. According to her mother, Mira is already showing signs of exceptional hand skills and an interest in books.

Amanda Nelsen (BB '07) moved with her family to Charlottesville VA to begin work as the program director at the Rare Book School. Amanda is also expecting a baby in September and was an artist in residence at Wellesley College during the 2009-2010 academic year.

Juliayn Coleman (BB '03) moved from Chicago to San Francisco to assume the role of production manager for Taurus Bookbindery. Stay up-to-date with Juliayn through her blog bookisland.wordpress.com.

CARPENTRY

Michele L'Heureux (CA '03) assumed a new role as the Curator and Director of the Arts at the Women's Studies Research Center at Brandeis University.

CABINET AND FURNITURE MAKING

Irving Gerber (CF '86) who opened his shop Fine Woodworkers of Boston at age 62 recently retired at age 87.

After a 5-year stint in Virginia restoring Montpelier and Willow Grove, **Richard (Ed) Gomez (CF '02)** is back in Massachusetts replacing all 69 of the double hung window sashes in The Gamble Building in Boston.



Ken Craggs (CF '07) got a dog and spent a week (without the dog) in the wilderness learning primitive survival skills.

Sten Havumaki (CF '09) was profiled in *New England Home* September 2010 newsletter, where he is quoted as attributing intricacy, order and geometry as the inspiration for his focus on early 18th century American architectural carvings. Sten also is a member of the New Haven based Yale bluegrass band Professors of Bluegrass.

Keith Uram (CF '04) participated in the MSPCA Walk for Animals.

Bill Doub (CF '73) who currently works in Deerfield NH is "gradually moving" to Rockland ME, according to a recent article in the Camden *Herald Gazette*. He has rented space in a building purchased by **Austin Matheson (CF '03)** and two other furniture makers. Located in Rockland's harbor district, the former Bicknell Manufacturing Co. factory, one of the town's oldest 19th century industrial buildings. Matheson is also an instructor at the Rockland ME Center for Furniture Craftsmanship, where **Dylan Fuller (CF '10)** is a resident Fellow this year.

Multi-tasker **Dan Phillips (CF '07)** writes: "Things are pretty good here in Texas. I have settled in (sort of) in my world of woodworking, art and music. I am busy at the shop with a wide range of nice things to make as well as totally boring and dull projects. I have a big show in November which will feature paintings, drawings, furniture, and carpentry. My band just signed a new record deal and will keep me pretty busy next year."



WYCHEMERE WOODWORKS' trestle table and built-in seating designed and built by **David Flanagan (CF '07)** was and installed this summer in a Cape Cod home.

The work of **Richard Oedel (CF '05)** was featured in the May 2010 exhibition "Furniture as Art/Art as Furniture" at the Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery in Portsmouth NH. The exhibitions pairs work from members of the New Hampshire Furniture Masters with two-dimension works by members of the New Hampshire Art Association.

In a recent issue of *The Chronicle of the Early American Industries Association*, **Randy Bell (CF '88)** reviewed a book by Winterthur Museum curator Brock Jobe on 16th and 17th century furniture from southeastern Massachusetts. The book documents an exhibition of the same name which included the reproduction work of former instructor **Wil Neptune (CF '81)** and current instructor **Steve Brown (CF '90)**.

Susan Murphy (CF '05) was profiled in the May 2010 issue of *Martha's Vineyard Magazine*. She makes furniture and operates a farm with 400 blueberry bushes in Chilmark MA with her husband Lynn.

Californian **John McCormack (CF '88)** has won the Wm. Everett Warner Professional Practice Award given by Epsilon Pi Tau, the professional fraternity for education in technology. He plans to write a book on teaching design/making at the post-secondary and secondary levels and is currently working in the Youth Program at the Spaulding Wooden Boat Center, Sausalito CA.

Seth Weizenecker (CF '10) and **Johanna Smick (BB '10)** were married this summer and have relocated to Asheville, NC.



NOT A WALK IN THE PARK **Pete Michelinie (CF '08)** trekked over 2,500 miles on a journey from Mexico to Canada along the Pacific Crest Trail. The trip took five months and, at the end, he reported "my feet hurt a lot and I feel like an old man in the mornings." Plans for the coming year are just as adventurous—driving around the West in a Clif Bar-sponsored RV.

Ryan Rhodes (CF '08) and Sara Goodrich, former Assistant to the Executive Director at NBSS, were married this July in Auburn ME. Their wedding rings were made by fellow NBSSer **Jade Drakes (JM '08)**. Present were classmates **Earl Powell, Dave Benetello, Keith McIntosh** and **Justin Keegan**.

Alumni News

NBSS

Continued from p. 11.

Tom MacDonald (CF '02) is the host of a new television series being produced by WGBH television in Boston which will debut this winter and features the school, instructor **Steve Brown (CF '90)** and President Miguel **Gómez-Ibáñez (CF '99)** in its opening episode.

Patrick Farrell (CF '82) has just finished construction of his own house in Salem MA where he worked for many years as a middle school industrial arts instructor before starting a second career in real estate.

J. P. Parnas (CF '78) has moved his shop to Boggostow Farm in Sherborn, MA where he joined with FullCircle Stables in May to hold an open studio day.

Robert McKeown III (CF '88) opened Elk Creek Cabinetry, a custom woodworking shop in Elkton Maryland. A recent project was the restoration of windows in a historic home in New Castle Delaware built in 1801.

Workshop instructor **Matt Wajda (CF '01)** collaborated on an art project with the theme of "bridges" funded by the Portsmouth NH cultural commission. He and artist Carley Govinsky created flooring for a symbolic walkway out of old telephone books.

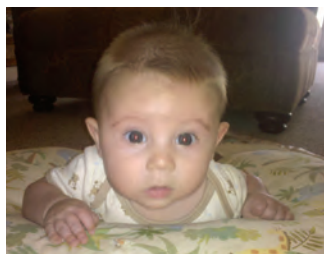
JEWELRY MAKING

Akiko Nakahata (JM '04) married David Burd. She made both her and his new husband's wedding bands.

Emily Scott (JM '07) celebrated the opening of her new shop "e. scott originals" at 199b Highland Avenue, Somerville MA with a grand opening party this September.

In the June 2010 issue of *Artscope*, **Lily Johannsen (JM '10)** was one of three graduating students asked to describe the most important lessons they had learned. "Be prepared for Murphy's Law and plan accordingly" she said, "work the right way from the beginning and don't be afraid to start over."

Back home in Iceland, **Saedis Halldorsdottir (JM '09)** and her husband have converted a former fisherman's shack in Reykjavik's Old Harbor to a jewelry and craft gallery. The opening of their gallery was featured in an article on Iceland's economy by the Minneapolis MN Star Tribune.



KIM PARMENTIER (JM '02) welcomed Theo Parmentier to the world on April 12, 2010.

Cindi Haddad Drew (JM '87) opened Cindi's Diamond and Jewelry Gallery at 40 Central Street, Foxborough MA.



NEW FIREHOUSE DOORS

were designed and built by Sarah Purgus and Jerome Mace, both members of the PC class of 2010, shown here relaxing after a successful installation. A crew of four of their classmates, with instructor Rich Friberg, was needed to lift and hang the doors.

Kaylie Rosborough (JM '09) was profiled in a recent article in the *The Ellsworth American*. She has opened a jewelry shop "Findings" at 71 Main Street, Ellsworth ME in the same building where her father opened the J. T. Rosborough Insurance Agency in 1952.

PRESERVATION CARPENTRY

In the Annual Report of The 1772 Foundation, **Bud Blanchard (PC '10)** describes the 2009 summer internship program at the Mount Lebanon Shaker Village as "idyllic; it's like being away at a carpenter summer camp." The foundation provided financial support for the first two summers of the internship training program. Blanchard worked with classmates **Sarah Purgus (PC '10)**, **Jerome Mace (PC '04)** and **Matt Diana (PC '04)** under the direction of **Peter Smith (PC '04)**.

Instructor **Steven O'Shaughnessy (PC '99)** has been guiding preservation carpentry students in the restoration of the historic Anna Clapp Harris home in Dorchester MA. He described the meticulous demolition and restoration work in an interview published this sum-

mer in the *Dorchester Reporter*. Instructor **Rich Friberg (PC '04)** and his second-year class constructed a set of scale-model timber-framing connections from four 17th century houses for Historic New England to use in their educational programs.

Brian Carroll (PC '99) is now a Project Designer at Sustainable Design Group in Maryland, working on "comfortable, healthy, efficient and environmentally responsible homes."

Steve Homer (PC '98) recently completed work restoring the 17th century windows at the Peabody MA Historical Society's Nathaniel Felton Sr. House.



A METICULOUS RESTORATION

of one of Westborough's finest historic homes is being done by its owner, **Michael Fitzpatrick (CF '06)**. Exterior details were painstakingly reproduced, but the interiors of the 1845 home will be contemporary. **Jeremy Gallant (CF '12)** helped out for the summer, and *Fine Home Building* magazine will publish a story about the house when it's complete.

Heather Tortola (PC '04) (formerly Proffitt) is managing construction services for Pinck & Co and involved in LEED projects including City Year Headquarters and Fay School in Southborough MA.

Brian Horne (PC '08) is pursuing a Masters of Arts in Historic Preservation and working for a cabinetmaker in Phoenixville PA.

David Gallagher (PC '95) recently began a new role as chief of conservation at Mt Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge and a board member of Association for Preservation Technology (APTNE).

PIANO TECHNOLOGY

Kazuo Yoshizaki (PT '99) worked on the CD *Ballade* released in July from Octavia records.

Hale Jacob (PT '06) is busy with her business Rising Thirds Piano Service in the greater New York City area.

Bryan Hartzler (PT '00) has returned home to Columbus OH, literally. He lives in his parents' former home with his wife and two children and is tuning and restoring pianos at Ohio Wesleyan, Denison University and the Columbus Symphony.

Emily Townsend (PA '08) tunes and restoring pianos through her business Townsend Piano Services in San Antonio TX. She says in the July 2010 issue of *San Antonio Woman* that she got her start at age 12 in Nebraska when her mother called a piano tuner for the family's piano. She still plays piano, trades piano lessons for tunings, and says she has "the coolest job in the world."

The Bangor ME *Daily News* reports that **Matthew Pearson (PA '10)** has moved to Gaithersburg MD where he works as a piano technician.

Robin Flint (PA '01) and her husband Stephen Gore joined PC graduate **Dan DiPaolo (PC '04)** riding 200 miles in the Pan Mass Challenge for cancer research. She writes "next year we will be celebrating Stephen's fifth cancer free year."

Nancy Bartlett (PA '99) is expecting her fifth child.

VIOLIN MAKING

Jess Fox (VM '08), an Alumni Council member, and her band Odessa Rose played several times in the Boston area over the past months.

An article on career changers in the Pawtucket RI newspaper *The Sun Chronicle* featured the life story of **Dennis McCarten (VM '06)** the lawyer turned luthier who now runs a violin and stringed instrument repair shop in the Hope Artists Village complex in Pawtucket.

Ilya Rutman (VM '92), owner of Rutman's Violins in Boston, was the subject of a feature story in a May 2010 edition of *The Fenway News*. The Fenway location has been successful, says Rutman, due to the proximity of the Boston Symphony and several schools of music.



ALUMNI COUNCIL NEWS

The Alumni Council has a new chairperson – **Denise Fenoglio (JM '06)**. She assumed the role from **Dennis McCarten (VM '06)** who served for two years as a member of the Council and two years as Chair, Denise exemplifies the dedication and friendliness that is the hallmark of the Alumni Council.

"I'd like us to find fun and creative ways to better serve the needs of our alumni," said the new chairperson. The Alumni Council hopes to intensify its outreach to the alumni community and to offer interesting opportunities for alumni to meet and create connections with each other and to NBSS. We are working on a new and dynamic web presence that will be an important source of information-sharing and networking among graduates. We also plan to host more frequent opportunities for alumni to meet, visit museums, participate in community service projects, attend sporting events, be a mentor, etc.

The NBSS Alumni Council includes volunteer alumni from the eight school departments. Its mission is to 'build and nurture a community of alumni by providing avenues for communication, socialization and resource-sharing and to promote life-long connections between alumni and North Bennet Street School.'

If you are interested in assisting the Alumni Council, helping with the events and/or volunteering for the council, write to Denise at denisefenoglio@verizon.net or contact Jason Gregoricus in Student and Alumni Services studentservices@nbss.org / 617-227-0155, x107. Visit the Alumni Council website at www.nbssa-lumni.org.



SHOP the SHOP

Looking for a new tool or a unique hand-crafted holiday gift? Shop at the North Bennet Street School Gallery for you and all your friends.

ALUMNI COUNCIL MEMBERS (l to r) Earl Powell (CF '08), Todd Gaines (CA '09), Denise Fenoglio (JM '06), David Parks (PC '09), Donald (DJ) Dabenigno (LK '05), Ken Gilbert (BB '10), Dana Christensen (PT '06), Emily Scott (JM '07), Sef Gray (VM '08), Jerome Mace (PC '10). Not pictured, Dwayne Bailey (CF '06), Xianodan Liu (PA '07), Christo Wood (VM '05), Steve Mitchell (LK '10)

TWO JOIN STAFF



James Dergay joined the staff as the Director of Financial Aid in May. James works closely with the admissions department and student services to guide new and returning students through the maze of financial aid options and the paperwork needed to secure grants and loans. Prior to coming to North Bennet Street School, James was assistant director of financial aid for Lesley University. A Massachusetts native, he loves all things New England, especially maple sugaring. His other hobbies include, skiing, golf, and music. James can be reached at financialaid@nbss.org.



In July, **Nancy Jenner** joined the staff as Director of Communications and Strategic Partnerships. Nancy directs and manages the school's marketing and communications programs and works closely with faculty, staff, students and alumni to spread the word about the school and recruit the best students. Before coming to NBSS, Nancy was the deputy director of the Boston Society of Architects. In addition to her role at NBSS, Nancy maintains a painting studio in Dorchester. Nancy can be reached at njenner@nbss.edu.



MAKE SOMETHING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

As consummate craftspeople, why select a store-bought holiday card when you can design and letter your own in the Holiday card lettering and design workshop with master calligrapher Maryanne Grebenstein? Or perhaps you'd prefer to construct a 2011 journal in the Versatile journal and sketchbook designs workshop. Venture outside the box with a decorative painting workshop and learn how to create faux agate and malachite patterns on jewel-like boxes... or create nested Shaker oval boxes in one day... or join us in our brand-new lathe studio to turn an ornament.

November 12-14

Holiday card lettering and design

December. 4

Malachite and agate box

December 4-5

A book of one's own: versatile journal & sketchbook designs; Turn an Ornament

December 5

Shaker oval boxmaking

NBSS COMMUNITY BLOGS

Maryanne Grebenstein (workshop faculty) - abbey-studio.blogspot.com

Bob Miller (CF student) - whothellisbobmiller.com

NBSS IN PRINT

Lance Patterson was profiled as "The dean of period furniture" in the Winter 2010 issue of **Woodwork** magazine.

The school was featured in an article titled "Education in Craftsmanship" in the June/July issue of **American Craft**.

"Stellar Training in Craftsmanship. Period." is the title of the article about NBSS by Jonathan Binzen published in the July/August 2010 issue of **Fine Woodworking**.

OTHERS BLOG ABOUT NBSS

Vladimir Kagan visited NBSS in June and wrote about the school on his blog.

"I have visited many schools specializing in furniture design with cabinet-making shops as an integral part of their facilities. But until you have visited the North Bennet School in Boston, 'you aint seen nothing yet!'" North Bennet is in a class by itself." Read the complete 6/24/2010 post at <http://vladimirkagan.typepad.com>.

Alumni, students and faculty are encouraged to submit their blogs and articles (by or about them) to newsletter@nbss.org.

ARE THERE YOUNG CRAFTSPEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE?

While we always welcome students of all ages to our programs, we have a few upcoming workshops specifically designed for families and teens. Andy Glenn, our middle-school wood-working lead teacher, offers two toolbox-building workshops – one for teens and one designed for a parent and younger child. Todd Pattison leads a one-day bookbinding workshop for teens, in which students can expect to make several books. These special workshops were designed with low- or no-cost tool requirements.

November 14, 2010

Bookmaking for teens

December 4, 2010

Tool box workshop for teens

January 30, 2011

Parent & child tool box workshop

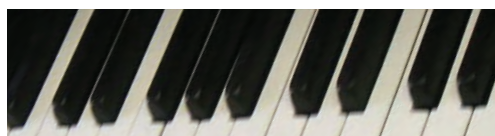
NBSS ONLINE



Are you one of the more than 500 million active users of Facebook? If you are, look for the North Bennet Street School page, give us the thumbs up by clicking 'like' and updates from the school will travel to your facebook newsfeed. Suggest the school to your friends and help our online network grow. The two facebook groups (one specific to alumni) provide a forum for sharing news with others in the NBSS community.

Perhaps you prefer LinkedIn... if you do, there's a small linkedin group with big potential... search under groups.

Prefer to watch videos? YouTube has a growing collection of videos featuring NBSS students and alumni. Type 'North Bennet Street School' in the YouTube search and watch them all.



Pianos for Sale – three NBSS—refurbished grand pianos await new owners... for details, go to www.nbss.edu and click on 'gallery'.



CALLIGRAPHY STUDY TRIP & OTHER SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Master calligrapher Maryanne Grebenstein leads a two-week adventure through Europe in Spring 2011. Travelers with the illuminated manuscript study trip visit France, England, Ireland and Italy, stopping to view historic manuscripts and sampling plenty of wine, chocolate and museums along the way. For the full description, visit the workshop section of the school website www.nbss.edu.

Can't swing the trip to Europe? Join us in Boston for one of dozens of exciting workshops and short courses in our North End facility. It's not Europe, but the flavor is decidedly Italian.

NBSS WINS GOOD NEIGHBOR RECOGNITION AWARD FROM THE NORTH END WATERFRONT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Accepting the award for the North Bennet Street School were Miguel Gomez-Ibanez, NBSS President (center), Claire Fruitman, NBSS Associate Director (2nd from right), Andy Glenn, NBSS Resident Superintendent and Woodworking Instructor for the Eliot School (far right). Presenting the award for NEWRA's Clean Streets Committee were Janet Gilardi (2nd from left) and Nancy Caruso, a member of the NBSS Board of Overseers (far left).



North Bennet Street School is pleased to announce a recent unrestricted grant from the Cultural Investment Portfolio of the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Benchmarks

The newsletter of the
North Bennet Street School
39 North Bennet Street
Boston, MA 02113-1914
617-227-0155

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

NBSS Calendar

November 5-6, 2010

NBSS ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE
North Bennet Street School

November 12-14, 2010

HOLIDAY CARD LETTERING & DESIGN
North Bennet Street School

November 14, 2010

BOOKBINDING FOR TEENS
North Bennet Street School

December 4-5, 2010

HOLIDAY CRAFT WORKSHOPS
North Bennet Street School
(See www.nbss.edu for details.)

December 11-13, 2010

CRAFT BOSTON HOLIDAY
The Cyclorama at Boston Center for the Arts

December 17, 2010

TABLE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT FINALS
North Bennet Street School

January 11-February 10, 2011

BASICS OF CAD: RHINO MODELING SOFTWARE
North Bennet Street School

January 30, 2011

PARENT/CHILD TOOL BOX WORKSHOP
North Bennet Street School

March 25-27, 2011

CRAFT BOSTON
Seaport World Trade Center, Boston

April 2, 2011

FIFTH ANNUAL STUDENT ALUMNI PARTY
Charles River Museum of Industry, Waltham

April 2011

ANNUAL STUDENT EXHIBITION OF STUDENT WORK
Location TBA

May 24-June 8, 2011

ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPT STUDY TOUR
France, England and Italy

June 3, 2011

GRADUATION EXERCISES
Old North Church

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NORTH•BENNET•STREET•SCHOOL

18TH ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

Friday, November 5, 2010 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
(Boston and Arlington locations)

Saturday, November 6, 2010 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
(Boston location)

Aspiring furniture makers, bookbinders, jewelry makers, carpenters, locksmiths, piano tuners, violin makers and those merely curious about the process of making exquisite things by hand are invited to a rare, behind-the-scenes look at one of the America's oldest schools of craftsmanship in Boston's North End.

For more information and to pre-register for the FREE open house, go to www.nbss.edu.

AN EDUCATION IN CRAFTSMANSHIP
Celebrating 125 Years