

## LEARNING BY DOING

Preservation carpentry student Jared Lodge examines the plaster cove at the eaves of the Brethren's Workshop at Mount Lebanon Shaker Village. Story on page 11.

Partnerships with other higher-education institutions brought graduate-level students to North Bennet Street School this summer for hands-on training to enrich their master's degree programs. Relationships with other non-profits provided internship opportunities for NBSS students to learn from masters in their field. Learning by doing, in varied settings by diverse students at all levels contributes to the year-round NBSS educational experience.

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### **NEW PROGRAMS REACH THE GRADUATE LEVEL**

Partnerships with other higher-education institutions result in summer courses in bookbinding and preservation carpentry.  
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### **KEEPING NYC IN TUNE**

A unique internship with a non-profit in New York City that places pianos in public spaces. NBSS students kept them in tune in June.  
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EVA MARTIN, JM '03

### EVA MARTIN JOINS THE FACULTY

After completing the Jewelry Making and Repair program at NBSS in 2003, Eva Martin spent several years in Queensland, Australia where she distinguished herself with her exceptional jewelry designs and fabrication. Martin fabricates pieces on commission for clients all over the world. Her work combines the time-honored skills of fine craftsmanship with cutting edge CAD and rapid-prototyping technology.

Eva Martin has won several major awards including the 2006 Saul Bell Design Award Grand Prize for her Carouseling Cufflinks and she won second place for the same award in 2009 and 2011. She 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. In 2010, Eva received the NBSS Distinguished Alumni Award.

Eva has joined Rosemary Trainor and Lisa Hunt in the jewelry department. ✨



First graders in the new Eliot School art room at NBSS.



Locksmithing's new home is a high-ceiling, light-filled, harbor-view space steps away from the working docks and high-end restaurants that define the South Boston waterfront.

## Eliot School partnership

North Bennet Street School enjoys a successful partnership with the nearby John Eliot School—a public K-8 school. The schools share a long history of collaboration and first worked together in the early 20th century. The recent collaboration began when the schools jointly developed a pilot middle-school woodworking program in 2009.

To help the city accommodate the growing population of North End, Back Bay and Beacon Hill children, the partnership was expanded in September to provide the Eliot School with an office and two classrooms: one on the first floor of NBSS for use as the John Eliot School art room and a second in the former third floor admissions office to be used as a social studies classroom.

In return, the city is providing space at 12 Channel Street in South Boston as a temporary location for the locksmithing department. This new location is a light-filled space with views of Boston harbor.

Both the temporary classrooms for the Eliot School at 39 North Bennet Street and the temporary location for locksmithing at 12 Channel Street are the first steps in a cooperative venture to analyze and solve the long-term space needs for the two schools, a process that is expected to take 3-5 years. ✨

## Graduates benefit from the commission referral process

"The best thing about the process is that I meet prospective clients who already think positively about me before they meet me because of the good reputation of the school," says Cathy MacKenzie, CF '06.

Every year, the North Bennet Street School gets hundreds of calls and emails from all over the country from individuals hoping to commission NBSS students or graduates to do some work for them. The diversity of the requests covers the full range of NBSS's eight current disciplines—locksmithing, violin, piano, bookbinding, jewelry, carpentry, preservation carpentry and furniture—and even those that are no longer taught. According to the student and alumni services office, at least twice a year the school gets requests from people who need their watch or clock repaired—even though the NBSS Watch Repair department was discontinued in the 1980s.

Alumni who request commission alerts receive emails from the Office of Student and Alumni Services with the subject line says "NBSS Commission." Alumni who do not receive commission notices by email and would like to should email Jason Gregoricus at [jgregoricus@nbss.edu](mailto:jgregoricus@nbss.edu) with a current email address and your name will be added to the list. ✨

### ALUMNI COUNCIL

meetings are open to all alumni; write to Jason Gregoricus at [jgregoricus@nbss.edu](mailto:jgregoricus@nbss.edu) for more information.



Penland students taking in the view on a summer afternoon. Photo: Robin Dreyer

## ARE WE ARTISTS?

By MIGUEL GÓMEZ-IBÁÑEZ, CF '99, president of North Bennet Street School

I recently had the opportunity to spend two weeks at the Penland School of Crafts in the North Carolina highlands teaching a course in traditional furniture making. It was a real pleasure to be at Penland. It is a community of dedicated, talented students and teachers much like North Bennet Street School.

In fact, both schools occupy a similar place in the history of American craft. Both were founded by women with a shared vision of hand-skills training and craft education as a way to provide employment for underserved populations. At Penland, it was Lucy Morgan who, in the 1920s, began teaching weaving to Appalachian women. Similar to NBSS, Penland is now nationally known, with multiple programs and more than 1,000 students each year.

One difference between the two schools is the use of the term “artist” to describe students and teachers. Like most craft schools today, at Penland “artists” teach in “studios”. ‘Artist’ is not a word we use often at North Bennet Street School. We have instructors, who teach in bench rooms—more practical, down-to-earth terms.

Art and craft, or artists and craftsmen, were once easy to distinguish. Craft was characterized by its focus on material, technique and utility, while art was above utility, occupying the realm of ideas and meaning. One was humble, the other important. Beginning with the Arts and Crafts Movement and continuing over the course of the 20th century, the distinction has become increasingly blurred. We have come to understand

that craft objects can be individual works of art and that the objects made by artists can be skillfully crafted. The relationship between art and craft has become ambiguous, with neither having a monopoly on ideas, meaning, material, technique or importance.

Nowhere is that ambiguity more apparent than at North Bennet Street School. Our blend of training programs and our focus on professional practice is unique among craft schools. Combining furniture making and jewelry making with carpentry and locksmithing is a strong statement in support of both art and craft, practicality and inspiration. Bookbinding and preservation carpentry add a reverence for the history of our material and intellectual culture. Piano technology and violin making add music and resonance to the school—both literally and metaphorically.

*“Art and craft, or artists and craftsmen, were once easy to distinguish. Craft was characterized by its focus on material, technique and utility, while art was above utility, occupying the realm of ideas and meaning.”*

Discussions about the distinctions between art and craft are intellectually engaging but perhaps ultimately fruitless. There is no clear line between the two, nor does there need to be. I prefer a broader definition of the term artist, one that is suggested in the quote from the painter George Bellows that was left for me on a letterpress-printed card in my room when I arrived at Penland:

“The artist is the person who makes life more interesting or beautiful, more understandable or mysterious, or probably, in the best sense, more wonderful.” ✨



## STUDENTS AT A GLANCE

On Tuesday, September 6, faculty and staff members welcomed 88 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.

Generous financial contributions from NBSS alumni and other supporters makes it possible for the school to provide much-needed scholarships to an increasing number of students. Close to \$150,000 of NBSS scholarship support was awarded to 37 students for the 2011-2012 year—an increase of \$25,000 over last year. In addition, 27 students received federal and state grants.



- 149 students enrolled
- 88 new students in September 2011
- 25% female (38 students...up from 23% last year)
- 18 - 63 years old
- students come from 29 states (up from 20 last year)
- 8 international students from 5 countries (Japan, South Korea, United Kingdom, China and Columbia)
- 43% of students receive scholarships and/or grants (up from 34% last year)
- \$150,000 in scholarships awarded
- Additionally, 8 students enrolled in the three-month furniture making intensive

# CLIMBING THE STAIRS AT NBSS

By Rob O'Dwyer, Director of Admissions

When I first arrived at North Bennet Street School in January, I found the building layout a curious challenge. During my first few tours, I began leading people downstairs when I meant to go upstairs. Something about how the stairs wind around the elevator shaft was making me dyslexic. It felt a bit like M.C. Escher meets the Chocolate Factory.

It took two weeks to explore and understand the layout. The ground floor of Tileston was the last uncharted area and home of a Mason & Hamlin piano donated by Bill Garlick, the first department head of the NBSS piano technology department. Recently while giving a tour to a prospective piano technology student, I opened the lid of the M&H piano while saying, "This piano has something unique about it but I can't remember what it is." Then it occurred to me that I recently learned about rare tuning at the PTG Conference in Kansas City and that what made this piano special was that the tuning pegs are threaded so you can tune very accurately.

*"It felt a bit like M.C. Escher meets the Chocolate Factory."*

The prospective student was on a bicycle trek and rode here from Maine. He was on his way to boat building school and doing research on our program for 2012. He is in fact our typical student, i.e., atypical. What I have discovered is that students are drawn to NBSS programs through interest, passion, curiosity and enthusiasm. These qualities don't constitute a demographic but rather a like-mindedness. There are veterans, recent high school graduates, early and late career-changers,

parents and home-schooled students. The beauty is in the variation and my guess is that each class's collective experience is unique.

The incoming class of September 2011 includes a local woman who took her first workshops at NBSS when she was thirteen, the head of a school of economics on sabbatical from Korea, a fisherman from the Cape who noticed jewelers' tools in the gallery window while walking the Freedom Trail, a Hawaiian Kona coffee farmer,



A note to tuners inside a Mason & Hamlin piano.

a retired truck driver, a retired Special Forces serviceman, and the list goes on. I look forward to watching their progress while I give tours to the next group of prospective students. Now at least I'll know which way the stairs go! ☀



Robert Schwartz, 2011 graduation speaker



## On the pathway to prosperity

The 2011 graduation ceremony was held at Old North Church on Friday, June 3. It was a beautiful, warm sunny day marked by joyous celebration and camaraderie.

During the ceremony, after welcoming remarks by the Chairman of the school's Board of Directors, Charles Kline, North Bennet Street School President Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez introduced the graduation speaker, Robert B. Schwartz, Academic Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Schwartz co-authored "Pathways to Prosperity", a report published earlier this year that questions the American education system's emphasis on four-year college degrees.

"All students should be given a chance to thrive," said Schwartz, referencing the report's findings. "It should be about giving kids at age 16 or 17 enough information about various career paths to let them choose what's best for them."

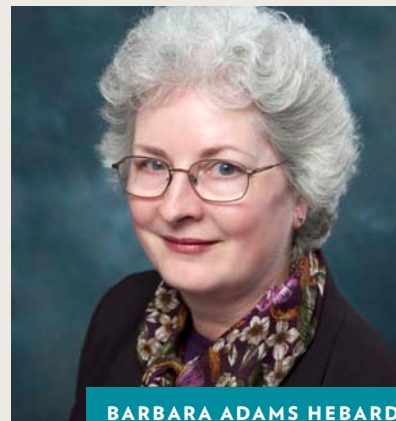
In his remarks, Schwartz summarized three main points in the "Pathways to Prosperity" study:

- Only 30% of 25-year-olds in America have undergraduate degrees and the percentage has been steady for more than five years. Increasing that percentage even 5% would require a huge, and likely not effective, investment.
- Looking at the economy of the future, at least one-third of jobs will require some training but will not require a four-year college degree.
- In many countries in northern Europe, 40% - 70% of 16-year-old students are mainstreamed into some form of vocational training. Many of the programs are based on an apprenticeship model and many follow principals similar to North Bennet Street School. These programs train individuals for a broad range of jobs and the countries that invest in these structured programs enjoy a significantly higher success rate of preparing students to enter the workplace and enjoy meaningful careers.

Schwartz praised North Bennet Street School as a unique local and national institution and ended his remarks with a warning from John William Gardner, former U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. "The society which scorns excellence in plumbing as a humble activity and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because it is an exalted activity will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy—neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water." ✨

Watch the video of the graduation speech online at [www.nbss.edu](http://www.nbss.edu). Click on 'About' and 'Latest News' to find the story and video.

Photo: Kerry Burke, Boston College



BARBARA ADAMS HEBARD. BB '90

### 2011 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

At the 2011 graduation ceremony, Ken Gilbert, BB '10, a member of the Alumni Council, presented the Distinguished Alumni Award to Barbara Adams Hebard. Gilbert's comments and the remarks made by Hebard's husband (Barbara was at a conference and unable to attend), painted a picture of a warm and generous professional.

After graduating, Barbara worked at the Boston Athenaeum as a book conservator for 18 years. In 2009, she became the conservator of the John J. Burns Library at Boston College. In this special-collection library, she is in charge of the preservation and conservation of two hundred and sixty thousand rare books and sixteen million archival items.

Barbara regularly exhibits her work at shows and lectures and writes for publications. She has served as an NBSS Overseer, Chair of the Alumni Council and a program advisor. Barbara maintains a contact list of bookbinding graduates and each year she makes entries in her work-bench genealogy—a document that traces the occupants of every NBSS bookbinding workbench.

Barbara's warmth, thoughtfulness and generosity shape the bookbinding community at NBSS in Boston and beyond.

Read more about Barbara and make nominations for the 2012 Distinguished Alumni online at [www.nbss.edu](http://www.nbss.edu), click on 'Alumni'.



Photos by Bill Brett

## ANNUAL EVENING

On the evening of May 17, 2011, more than 300 craft lovers gathered at the 12th Annual Evening of Traditional Craft. The event was at the Cyclorama at the Boston Center for the Arts.

This year, in addition to the extraordinary work exhibited by 40 graduates of the school, guests watched a work in progress as a full-scale timber-frame structure was assembled (and disassembled) by a nimble team of second-year preservation carpentry students.

The event was a tremendous success raising \$102,000 to support the school. Proceeds from the event provide scholarships for students, ensure

the excellence and growth of educational programs and enhance efforts to foster public awareness of, and greater appreciation for, traditional craftsmanship.

A special thank you to the hard-working committee, its chair for a second year, Peter Feinmann, CA '83, and the event sponsors and donors. A list of corporate sponsors with links to their websites is online at [www.nbss.edu](http://www.nbss.edu) in the Friends and Donors section.

Planning for the 2012 annual evening starts soon and all ideas are welcome. Write to [lrordan@nbss.edu](mailto:lrordan@nbss.edu) for details. \*

*“The event was a tremendous success, raising \$102,000 to support the school.”*



## Supporting the mission

Traditional craftsmanship is thriving and careers are being nurtured at North Bennet Street School thanks to the generosity of individuals who contribute to the Annual Fund. The Annual Fund is the cornerstone of philanthropic support at NBSS and contributions are a direct way to make a positive impact on the students' educational experiences.

Annual Fund gifts go to work immediately:

- Providing scholarships for students
- Helping to keep tuition as low as possible by reducing reliance on tuition revenue
- Ensuring the excellence of educational programs by supplying instructors with the tools they need to give students the best possible training
- Enhancing efforts to foster public awareness of, and greater appreciation for, traditional craftsmanship

It takes only a few minutes to make a gift to North Bennet Street School. To make a gift, please use the enclosed envelope or make your gift online at [www.nbss.edu/annualfund](http://www.nbss.edu/annualfund). Donors who contribute \$1,000 or more are enrolled as members of the Pauline Agassiz Shaw Society. \*



## One graduate's journey and his commitment to giving back

"As my journey shows, the skills I learned are high quality and portable, making it possible for me to earn a living almost anywhere."



PAUL MARSHALL, PA '03

Like many NBSS alums, I came to North Bennet Street School through a circuitous path. Mine took me from my home town of Santa Cruz on the west coast to Vermont where I first learned about this incredible piano technology school in Boston. After two years as a student in the NBSS piano department, I went back to San Francisco then to Los Angeles and finally back to San Francisco where I started a business and have lived ever since. As my journey shows, the skills I learned are high quality and portable, making it possible for me to earn a living almost anywhere.

From the very first day, my time at NBSS was memorable. I looked around during orientation—people of all ages and from all walks of life—people who would be sharing this new beginning with me. It was a little intimidating and absolutely inspiring. I'll take it one day at a time, I thought. My days, which added up to two academic years, were days spent in the company of incredible instructors Jack, Chris, David and Debbie. I learned something new every day and I didn't want it to end.

But end it did, and when I left with my diploma, I went back to the west coast and eventually started my business—the San Francisco Piano Shop ([www.sanfranciscopianoshop.com](http://www.sanfranciscopianoshop.com)). I'm happy to say I'm quite busy and I know none of this would have been possible without the training I received at NBSS. So when I received a request for a contribution from the School, I decided that I could contribute the equivalent of one tunings worth of income—and I did.

I know how much the School means to me. I want the School to last as long as possible, so I hope others will consider joining me and make a gift to NBSS's Annual Fund. ✨



## STUDENT WORK ON EXHIBIT

In May, the annual NBSS Student Exhibit was held in the marble and glass lobby of the Philip Johnson designed One International Place. "This is one of the best-looking venues for a student exhibit I've ever seen," former NBSS Associate Director, Walter McDonald was overheard saying. (Heady praise from a man who was with NBSS for thirty-plus years.)

The new venue was made possible through the efforts of Boston City Councilman Sal LaMattina, One International Place Operations Manager Kathy Ruggieri and the support of Don Chiofaro, president of The Chiofaro Company, the owner of One International Place. The two-week exhibit opened on Monday, May 9. During the exhibit, several pieces of furniture, jewelry and books were sold or commissioned.

"This was a very exciting exhibit and experience," noted Director of Student and Alumni Services Jason Gregoricus. "It provided an opportunity for NBSS students to learn what it takes to organize, set up and break down an exhibit—something many of them will do later in their careers."

The exhibit was so successful that plans are in the works to return to the venue next year and combine it with the Annual Evening of Traditional Craft. The combined event will provide an opportunity for students and alumni to exhibit together, enhancing the Annual Evening event and extending the exhibit opportunity for alumni.

Alumni who are interested in participating in the Spring 2012 event should contact Development Coordinator Laurie Riordan at [lrordan@nbss.edu](mailto:lrordan@nbss.edu) or 617-227-0155 x118. ✨



Boston Architectural College historic preservation students and instructors stand on a timber frame they built at NBSS.



Chela Metzger, BB '93 with the art conservation students enrolled in the book structures course.

*Two recent programs at the graduate level brought students from around the country to NBSS facilities to study historic book structures and preservation carpentry.*



Left photo: Chela Metzger, BB '93 (left) and a student. Right photo: Andy Ladygo (right) with a student.

## NEW PROGRAMS REACH THE GRADUATE LEVEL

North Bennet Street School has developed partnerships with both education and cultural institutions. These partnerships enrich our programs, expand our reach and serve our mission.

Over the past several years, a particular focus has been placed on NBSS partnerships that serve schoolchildren and specialized programs that serve individuals at the graduate-student level.

Two recent programs at the graduate level brought students from around the country to NBSS facilities to study historic book structures and preservation carpentry.

"Book Structures for Conservators" was a summer course taught by Chela Metzger, a 1993 graduate of the NBSS book-binding program and current conservator at Winterthur. The program is the first of a planned series of programs to provide art-conservation students an opportunity to explore book structures and related bookbinding skills. The result of a unique partnership with the University of Delaware, the institutional home



of the Winterthur Art Conservation program, and Simmons College in Boston, the program responds to a national need for library and archive conservation training.

Two art-conservation students from the University of Delaware and one from the University of Buffalo attended the five-week, full-time course at NBSS. The program examines book structures in the context of the conservation of books as cultural artifacts. The rigorous curriculum included readings and the creation of eight models of historic structures. “Books are three dimensional and usable artifacts—both their content and their structure carry meaning. Library and archive conservators need hands-on exposure to how books have been constructed through time and to how traditional bookbinding tools work” notes Metzger. “Being able to study book structures in the excellent NBSS studio while interacting with NBSS students was an invaluable experience for these beginning conservators.”

A second collaboration bore fruit in August when a group of seven students from the Boston Architectural College’s Masters of Design in Historic Preservation Program spent eight days in August learning about

*“Being able to study book structures in the excellent NBSS studio while interacting with NBSS students was an invaluable experience for these beginning conservators.”*

preservation carpentry and hand-skills as part of a semester-long class led by NBSS preservation carpentry instructor Steve O’Shaughnessy. This unique program combines a studio intensive with an online

program to teach students about historic building systems important to the preservation of New England structures from the Colonial era through the middle of the twentieth century. Hands-on training covered traditional timber-framing, flat and ornamental plastering, bench and molding planes, historic sash and windows, paint finishes, and historic hardware and fasteners. In addition to working closely with Steve O’Shaughnessy, students in the studio-intensive learned from an all-star line-up of preservation experts including Robert Adam, Sara Chase, Andrew Ladygo and Richard Friberg. The intensive week also included a field trip to the new Art of the Americas wing of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, a visit to Trinity Church, and a trip to the Saugus Iron Works—a recreation of the nation’s first successful ironworks in the mid-17th century. ✨



Students in the summer programs had many opportunities to practice hand skills.



FOREST HILLS CEMETERY

### STUMBLING UPON PAULINE AGASSIZ SHAW

By Nancy Jenner, Director of Communications and Strategic Partnerships

As a long-time resident of the Jamaica Plain area, I often enjoy walking in the Forest Hills Cemetery. Earlier this year, a friend and I were lazily wandering among the paths of the older section of this landscape gem and, in the wooded fringe at the edge of grounds, we were surprised to stumble upon the very modest gravesite of Pauline Agassiz Shaw and several members of her family.

The flat stone markers for Pauline Agassiz Shaw and her husband Quincy Adams Shaw are located at the back of the site behind upright stones of Robert Gould Shaw II, their youngest son, and his wife Mary Hannington Shaw. Nearby are their eldest son, Louis Agassiz Shaw, and third son Quincy Adams Shaw and his wife Sarah Pemberton Shaw.

The discovery of Shaw's gravesite prompted a bit of sleuthing and, not surprisingly, I found many wonderful tributes to the NBSS founder and a few interesting facts about the extended family. ✨

*To read more about the gravesite and family, go to [www.nbss.edu](http://www.nbss.edu), click 'About' and then 'History'*

## KEEPING NYC IN TUNE

In the spring of this year, Fred Patella called NBSS. He was looking for piano technicians interested in a unique summer job—keeping 28 grand and 60 upright pianos tuned during a two-week period in June when they would be placed in public sites in the five boroughs of New York City. The project was “Pop-Up Pianos” run by Sing for Hope, a non-profit organization that mobilizes professional artists in volunteer service programs that benefit schools, hospitals and communities. In the Pop-Up Piano program, each piano is uniquely painted by an artist and made available—many of them outside and all in public spaces—for anyone to play.



Photos by Michael Wilson, PA '12. More online at [www.nbss.edu](http://www.nbss.edu). For more information on Sing for Hope and the Pop-Up Piano program, visit [singforhope.org](http://singforhope.org).

Four NBSS piano technology students responded. Katie Anderson, Jordan Bailey, Michael Wilson and Eric Donnelly arrived in New York City in mid-June for a three-week blitz of piano tuning and repair. Fred Patella and the four NBSS students—the piano tech team—met daily to review the work plan and divide duties. Once the pianos were on site, a significant amount of time was spent getting from one area of the city to another. “I wore out two bicycle tires riding throughout the city,” said Michael Wilson. “We tuned pianos, fixed broken keys and did other minor repairs...and everywhere we went we met children and adults playing the pianos.”

Fred Patella, an accomplished piano technician, donates his time to Sing for Hope's Pop-Up Piano program. Last year, the first year of the program, there were 60 pianos and he was the sole technician. The NBSS students who worked with him this year were awed by his dedication and energy and Patella said “it was a pleasure to work with a group of professional, dedicated and talented piano technicians...whatever is happening at North Bennet Street School, keep doing it.”



## Learning by doing at a Shaker Village

For the third year, a small number of preservation carpentry students enjoyed summer internships at Mount Lebanon Shaker Village in New Lebanon, New York. For students, the opportunity to work on historic buildings in the museum setting was exhilarating...especially at the roof level. William Burns, PC '11, Frank DiFrancesco, PC '12 and Jared Lodge, PC '12 were the interns this year. The work was overseen by Peter Smith, PC '04 of David E. Lanoue, Inc., the company responsible for a major preservation and restoration project on the Village's Brethren's Workshop.

Reports from the crew outlined an ambitious and impressive list of repairs focused on the front half of the roof structure of the Brethren's Workshop. Projects undertaken included work on the rafters, top plate, sheathing, slate roofing, the plaster cove cornice and gutters. Once the roof was opened and investigated, the scope of work expanded as further areas requiring repair were discovered.

In addition to Peter Smith, master craftsman Michael Fountain, a metal worker and roofer who specializes in the restoration of slate, cedar and metal roofs, and Don Carpentier, a nationally renowned preservation expert, worked with the interns on restoring the slate roof and recreating 19th century gutters.

The value of the experience was made particularly relevant for William Burns who, after graduating from NBSS in June and completing the summer internship program, began a new job as the preservation carpenter at Canterbury Shaker Village in New Hampshire. ✱



Preservation student Jared Lodge (standing) and Michael Fountain examine the slate roof.

"The internship was a unique opportunity to participate in a large variety of preservation work far beyond what I expected. I was able to apply what I had learned in my first year at school and gained valuable real-world field experience while working with very skilled and knowledgeable professionals such as Mike Fountain and Don Carpentier. This internship was a great transition to my second year of school and more than I could have hoped for in preparing to enter this field after graduation." – FRANK DIFRANCESCO, PC '12



"I enjoyed the opportunity to take a holistic look at building preservation and understand how the work needed to be well-organized and well-communicated for the team to function properly. My favorite experience was the slate roofing—waterproofing, replacing damaged slate with recycled slate and the installation of new slate along the eaves. I learned many new skills and enjoyed working with a professional crew. Watching professionals problem-solving and troubleshooting tricky parts of the work helped me get better at thinking on my feet." – JARED LODGE, PC '12

## BOOKBINDING

**James Reid-Cunningham, BB '90** was named Associate Director for Digital Programs and Preservation at the Boston Athenaeum.

**Athena Moore, BB '10** has been working at the Northeast Document Conservation Center since January 2011 and is the 2011-2012 Samuel H. Kress Fellow. Her binding is included in *deFINed Bindings: 26 Bindings of the Pictorial Webster's*, a traveling juried show that is at the Bromfield Gallery in Boston in October 2011.

**John Carrera, BB '96** reports that his shop moved to a new location in Frederick, MD a year ago and that his show with Tom Phillips at MassMoCA has been postponed until Spring 2013.

**Amelia Sorensen, BB '10** and her husband Barry welcomed Gustav Barrett Sorensen, a 7lb. 15oz. 20.5" baby boy bookbinder, born June 29, 2011 in Boston.

**Elizabeth Rideout, BB '08** is currently working at Dartmouth College on a special project involving the care and repair of the US Congressional Serial Set and teaching for the library-sponsored Book Arts Workshop program. She has established a shop in Shelburne, VT where her private clients include conservation for University of Vermont special collections and new bindings of books written by calligrapher Maryanne Grebenstein.

**Cary Chandler, BB '06** has begun graduate work at Mills College in California in the MFA Book Art and Creative Writing program.

**Jennifer Jarvis, BB '06** was appointed the Mellon Conservator for Special Collections at Columbia University.

A stone carving by **Ann Conneman, BB '98** titled *Audi Partem Alteram* was included in the Annual Juried Issue of *Letter Arts Review*, a journal that is internationally recognized as the preeminent magazine for calligraphers and lettering artists.



Anne Conneman stone-carving

**Celine Lombardi, BB '11, Colin Urbina, BB '11, Arini Esarey, BB '11, Barbara Adams Hebard, BB '90, Amy Lapidow, BB '95** and two not-quite-alumni, **Sam Feinstein, BB '12** and **Erin Fletcher, BB '12** have bindings in the *One Book, Many Interpretations* exhibit at the Chicago Public Library. Celine's *House on Mango Street* won best binding of that title.



Celine Lombardi, book detail



Barbara Adams Hebard, book detail

**Anne McLain, BB '10** announced a new job as a book conservation technician with the Northeast Document Conservation Center.

**Amanda Nelsen, BB '07** had work included in *What is Contained: The Book as Subject and Object*, an exhibit at Northeastern University.

## CARPENTRY

**Peter Montague, CA '01** moved to Somerville, MA. His business, Lynwood Designs, has its first big job and he began working in metal-casting and joined the Artisans Asylum in Somerville.

**Andy Murphy, CA '10** married Kelley Flanagan and welcomed a 9lb 15oz son, Ben, on July 22 this year. Andy works for C2MG Builders.



Andy Murphy's son Ben

**Joshua Sienkiewicz, CA '09** is living in Brooklyn, doing carpentry work and acting. He is in the play *Lobby Hero* opening at the Schreiber Studio Theater in New York in October. Fellow classmate **Anthony Long, CA '09**, also living in Brooklyn, is doing carpentry on the set.

## CABINET AND FURNITURE

An article by **Dan Faia, CF '94**, head of the cabinet and furniture making department, titled *Period Perfect Bracket Feet* was published in *Fine Woodworking* and is online with additional features.

*Rough Cut - Woodworking with Tommy Mac* was nominated for a Daytime Emmy® Award in the Category *Outstanding Directing in a Lifestyle/Culinary Program*.

**Tommy MacDonald** is a 2002 graduate of the Cabinet and Furniture Making program.

Wychmere Woodworks, the business of **David Flanagan, CF '07**, marked its 4th anniversary in April. In July, Tim J. Peters joined David. Tim owned a 3,500 sq. ft. cabinet shop in Acton, MA and brings immense cabinet, furniture and millwork industry experience to Wychmere.

**Ronald Trapasso, CF '69** owner of Attwill Furniture Company in Lynn, was the featured business profile in the *Lynn Item* on June 19, 2011.

**Will Paul Silverman, CF '09** exhibited in the 2011 Sawdust Art Festival this summer in Laguna Beach, California and was featured in OCinSite.com, an Orange County, California website.

**Pete Michelinie, CF '08** sent news that his kneehole bureau was featured in the reader's gallery section of *Fine Woodworking* magazine 3 years after he sent in the submission.

**Andy Glenn, CF '08** and his wife Sarah welcomed Ruby Grace in June 2011.



Andy and Sarah Glenn and baby Ruby Grace

**Stephen Kinnane, CF '10** started a co-op, The Sakonnet Collective, in the Tiverton, Rhode Island historic Tiverton Four Corners district. The studio space and gallery feature furniture, metal, mixed-media art and photography.



**Michael Patrick Wheeler, CF '77** wrote of recent projects to restore the floor, roof, doors, body panels and tailgate of a 1939 Plymouth woodie and a Joshua Wilder clock for the Massachusetts Historical Society.



Michael Wheeler Woodie



Michael Wheeler Clock

**Kevin Mack, CF '08** celebrated the birth of his niece Elisa Caroline and looks forward to being featured in the Annual *Woodwork Magazine* for 2011. He was also featured on the cover of the May issue of *Woodshop News*.

From Texas, **Dan Phillips, CF '07** sent news of a show at Webb Gallery in Texas, an article he wrote for the Society of American Period Furniture Makers, the magazine '1814' that featured his work, a show at the Clark Gallery in Lincoln, MA that included his work. His band is touring Europe in October and he's expecting a baby in November.

**Reid Anderson, CF '10** relocated to Seattle, WA.

#### JEWELRY MAKING

**Gretchen McKenna, JM '96** reports from the bench that she is making and selling custom jewelry with a small company in Southern Pines, North Carolina.

**Laurie Evans, JM '11** started Beryllina, a custom jewelry business, and married Jared Berezin on August 19 at her parents' farm in Pennsylvania.

The family of **Andre Thames, JM '95** won the RE/MAX of New England Home Court Program essay contest with an essay describing opening their home to extended family members. The prize was a new basketball court and furnishings for a Celtic-themed bedroom.

e. scott originals jewelry, the Somerville store of **Emily Scott, JM '07** celebrated its first anniversary and will be featured in a Fall issue of *Boston Magazine* and a *Boston Globe* shopping feature also due to be published this Fall.



Emily Scott's store, e.scott originals

**Holly Hawkins Sabia, JM '07** sent news that she can't believe her son Lucca Nicholas Sabia, born September 9, 2010 is almost one year old.



Holly Hawkins Sabia's son, Lucca

After graduating, **Sædís Bauer Halldórsdóttir, JM '09** went home to Iceland and opened a store in the old harbor of Reykjavik. Sædís was featured in a recent issue of *Icelandic Times*.

## Letters from alumni

**Johanna Finnegan-Topitzer, BB '03**

To take a break from the dreadful economic situation in the States and pursue our love of travel, my husband and I moved to Taiwan to teach English. Although our Chinese language abilities



Students in Johanna's bookbinding course

are minimal, we have made good friends and learned much about the culture. A couple months ago, I taught a bookbinding class to a group of graduate students at the university. It was interesting teaching this craft to non-English speakers. I took a class

in Chinese calligraphy and learned how to make a traditional wall scroll. This fall, I will be teaching a couple of classes at the National University of Taiwan on bookbinding and 3-D paper art while helping students practice their conversational English.

**Timothy Miller, PC '99**

After spending the first years after graduation concentrating solely on preservation, I found myself becoming more and more interested in the sustainable side of the building arts. I became a LEED-accredited professional and studied PassivHaus techniques that I am using in a house I am designing and building in the Catskill Mountains. I have also worked on several commercial projects in New York City and am opening a bar and restaurant in Brooklyn in mid-September 2011. Being a "Green" licensed contractor in the city of New York essentially stands for saving what materials we can and reusing them. I find an absolute link between preservation and sustainable building—use hardy, long-lasting materials that are available nearest to you, build modestly when possible and design with passive solar in mind.

**Kate Dumont JM '07**

In 2009, I got a job working for Tiffany & Co as a stone-setter. I did very well, had a bench test and am now one of five jewelers on the Specialty Jeweler Team. We did the championship rings for the San Francisco Giants. The ring is incredible with over 75 diamonds. With my team, I am working on some new high-end products for the company. I have worked hard to get a good position here and am very pleased with my achievements. One thing I can say is I owe a lot to Rosemary and the other faculty members because they shaped me into a great, respectable jeweler.

## LOCKSMITHING

**Charles Robinson, LK '11**, was recently hired by Codman Lock of Dorchester, Massachusetts.

**Tracy Herren, LK '10** is working as a jeweler for E. B. Horn in Boston and runs a small polishing business in her spare time.

**Carmen Langthorne, LK '09** is working as a locksmith apprentice at Seacoast Lock & Safe in Salisbury, MA.

Since graduating, **Jeff Refinati, LK '02** has backpacked through Europe and New South Wales in Australia and has worked at the Mass College of Art and Design as the locksmith for the college since 2004.

**Sally Marcheterre, LK '04** has been living in Christiana, Tennessee and simply wants to say hello to all her fellow NBSS graduates.

**Barbara Baker, LK '04**, has been using the hand-skills and technical knowledge gained at NBSS reassembling and repairing old bicycle gears. In addition, she and her husband recently replaced the remaining window sashes on their 1885 Melrose home.

For the past two years, **Christopher McGuirk, LK '08** has worked at Artery Lock in Medford, MA.

**William E. Eldridge, LK '06** passed away in the spring. Bill came to NBSS after a 38-year career at General Electric in Lynn. He referred to NBSS as his "life after GE" and is fondly remembered by his friends at NBSS.

## PIANO TECHNOLOGY

**Amy Tiernan, PA '99** and **Jim Tiernan, PA '99** met when they were piano-technology students and opened Doghouse Pianos in Connecticut. The *Groton Patch* featured the couple in a recent issue.

After returning from a three-month trip to Japan, **Boaz Kirschenbaum, PA '03** and his wife Sakiko returned to piano restoration at Cherry Tree Piano, their busy shop in West Tisbury, MA. Boaz also reports he completed training and is now a Stanwood Precision Touch Design Installer.



Boaz Kirschenbaum

**Landon Collins, PT '09** opened two shops in California – in Santa Monica and in Culver City. He has tuned pianos at the Beverly Hills hotel, on a mountain in Malibu for a wedding and more recording studios in LA than he can name.

**Robert Purcell, PT '08** has a new business, Purcell Piano Service, and is working at Mason & Hamlin, was married in September 2010 and welcomed daughter Natalie on June 2, 2011.



Robert Purcell and daughter Natalie

In 2006 and 2007, **Adam Markowitz, PT '87** donated pianos to post-Katrina New Orleans. A documentary film about this project, titled *9 Pianos*, premieres at the Woodstock New York Film Festival in September 2011.

**Drew Paralic, PT '96** is the piano tech for 32 pianos in New York City and an independent jazz composer. Find his music on iTunes, Zune and Rhapsody.

**Mark Mention, PA '83** started the *Piano Santa Foundation* in 1992 and it's still going strong. [www.pianosanta.org](http://www.pianosanta.org).

**Cy Shuster, PT '06** taught a tuning class at the Piano Technicians Guild Annual Convention and Institute in Kansas City.

**John Otis, PT '11** is working at Absolute Piano Restoration in Lowell, MA.

## PRESERVATION CARPENTRY

**Adam Rissolo, PC '08** and his wife recently launched Goose Hill Historic, a design and carpentry service in New Milford, CT.

**Lee Noel Chase, PC '93** opened an office in Concord, MA providing architectural design services to the public.

**Gabrielle Simmons, PC '91** is finishing graduate studies in counseling psychology and plans to graduate in May 2012 and move to Northern California.

**Daniel DiPaolo, PC '04** of Lynn was featured in a *Boston Sunday Globe* in the *Money & Careers* section in April 2011.

**Julio Fuentes, PC '87** launched a new business, Construction Consulting Services, specializing in client document review, project

management, building and property evaluations, workshops and lectures.

**Johnathan Ericson, PC '11** joined Poulet-Guevara Enterprises, Inc. an interior architecture firm in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania.

**Bill Rainford, PC '11** and Alyssa Shorrock were married in Hawaii on June 21.



Bill Rainford and Alyssa Shorrock

## VIOLIN MAKING

**Charles Tompkins, VM '92**

wrote that in addition to repair work, he's teaching English as a second language at Newton, MA Free Library.

**Melanie (Jones) Belongia, VM '03** reports from Chesapeake, VA

that her home shop is busy and she has plans to have a storefront location in the next few years. She does repair/restoration and making and plays violin/viola and electric bass. She gigs with orchestras in the area and with several bands.

**Chris White, VM '88** launched [christopherwhiteviolins.com](http://christopherwhiteviolins.com). He continues to build instruments with **David Polstein, VM '89** and will visit The Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, England this Fall.

**Emily Kellerman, VM '05** and her husband opened a music store, Modern Day Music, in St. Paul, MN.

**William Platt, VM '06** relocated from Washington DC to New Hampshire and is setting up shop in Manchester.



## Continuing education forecast

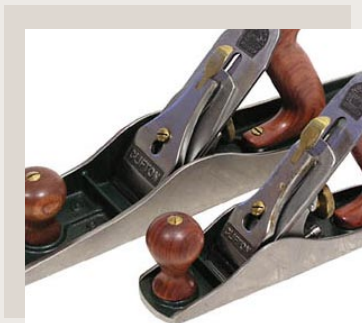
When this issue of *Benchmarks* went to press, scheduling and details were in the works for a robust line-up of winter workshops. If you are intrigued by these teasers or simply curious, visit [www.nbss.edu/workshops](http://www.nbss.edu/workshops) for the full schedule.

### UPCOMING WINTER WORKSHOPS

- Brian James teaches how to turn ideas into technical renderings with CAD using Rhino products.
- Explore mid-century furniture design in a Danish-modern table-making workshop with Ellen Kaspern.
- Fusing gold leaf onto silver with the Korean technique called Kum-boo, taught by Leslie Hartwell.
- Learn about scaleboard, a thin wood used in American bindings in the 1680s and earlier, in a lecture and class led by Julia Miller.
- Jeff Fleisher returns to NBSS to teach chip-carving.
- A manuscript and calligraphy study trip to Europe with Maryanne Grebenstein.

## Featured items in the NBSS gallery and store

The NBSS store and gallery sells high-quality tools at good prices, including Clifton planes. Visit the store or email gallery/store manager Ken Craggs at [kcraggs@nbss.edu](mailto:kcraggs@nbss.edu).



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**BENCHMARKS** | The newsletter of North Bennet Street School

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Send news and comments to [newsletter@nbss.edu](mailto:newsletter@nbss.edu)

Design: Moth Design, Kate Nazemi



NBSS receives support  
from the Massachusetts  
Cultural Council

## CALENDAR

**OCTOBER 15 & 22, 2011**

- WAX CARVING AND FINISHING
- JEWELRY WORKSHOP

**OCTOBER 15, 22 & 29, 2011**

- HOLIDAY CARD DESIGN
- CALLIGRAPHY WORKSHOP

**OCTOBER 16, 2011**

**LET'S WORK TOGETHER:  
BAT HOUSE**

Adult and child workshop

**OCTOBER 21 - 23, 2011**

**PROVIDENCE FINE FURNISHINGS  
& FINE CRAFT SHOW**

Student and alumni work on exhibit

**OCTOBER 22 - 23, 2011**

**TEEN WOODWORKING:  
TURN AN ORNAMENT**

Woodworking workshop

**OCTOBER 23, 2011**

**SHAKER OVAL BOXMAKING**

Woodworking workshop

**OCTOBER 27, 2011**

**MACHINING FOR MAKERS**

Lecture/artist talk at NBSS

**OCTOBER 29-30, 2011**

**INTRODUCTION TO  
BOWL TURNING**

Woodworking workshop

**NOVEMBER 4-5, 2011**

**OPEN HOUSE**

**NOVEMBER 16, 17, 2011**

**INFORMATION SESSIONS**

Full-time program information and tours

**NOVEMBER 17, 2011**

**THE SHAHIGANE AND KIKO-  
JUTSU: JAPANESE APPROACHES  
TO COMPOUND JOINERY**

Lecture/artist talk at NBSS

**NOVEMBER 19-20, 2011**

**TURN A PEPPER GRINDER**

Woodworking workshop