

# Benchmark

NORTH BENNET STREET SCHOOL

SPRING 2009 | WWW.NBSS.ORG



## NBSS Partners with Historic Shaker Site

North Bennet Street School has formed a partnership with the Shaker Museum and Library, owner of the North Family at Mount Lebanon Shaker Village, New Lebanon, NY, to develop a new model for Preservation Carpentry education that will integrate preservation trades training into a large, multi year restoration effort at a National Historic Landmark site. The first two years of the program will be funded by a \$150,000 grant awarded to the school from The 1772 Foundation, and will receive support from The World Monuments Fund.

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## Scholarship Fund Tops \$1 Million

**I**N JUNE, 2007, the North Bennet Street School's Board of Directors voted to establish the Walter McDonald Scholarship Endowment and set fundraising for financial aid as a top priority for the school. Just 18 months later, with nearly \$900,000 raised, the value of North Bennet Street School's scholarship fund rose to over \$1 million, marking a milestone in the history of the School. The dramatic increase in the scholarship fund will enable the school to make financial aid available to incoming, as well as returning students, starting in September 2009.

The scholarship pool includes a single gift of over \$300,000, which establishes the Patricia Murphy Scholarship Fund for students of Piano Technology. This gift is believed to be the single largest gift in the school's history. (See story on page 4.) The fund also includes a number of significant gifts from alumni and supporters of the school, including one gift of \$100,000, and several gifts of \$25,000 or more.

The fundraising initiative received an immediate boost from a \$300,000 matching grant awarded by an Arkansas foundation. Under the terms of the grant, the school was required to raise \$100,000 in matching funds each year for three years. Having met the match goal in 2007 and 2008, the school hopes to qualify for the final \$100,000 by December, 2009.

Other foundations have responded to the call for increased financial aid, including a New York foundation which provided funding to establish the Gladys Brooks Merit Scholarship Program at NBSS. In addition, a number of individual donors have established named memorial funds to provide ongoing financial assistance to students.

"The awarding of scholarships to incoming students was a key goal set by the school's 2008 Strategic Business Plan, and essential to making the school's programs available to students of all backgrounds and financial abilities," said NBSS Board President Charles Kline (CF'05). "We have to market ourselves so the people who need us can find us and once they find us we have to help many of them finance their educations." Scholarships to incoming students will be awarded based on need to students who apply using the standard Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.



Prompt responses to an early morning fire avert major damage at school. .... Page 5



The largest gift ever received by NBSS will provide student financial aid. .... Page 2



NBSS will be featured this fall on the PBS television series Craft in America. ... Page 3

# NBSS RECEIVES LARGEST GIFT EVER

**INSPIRED** by their love of piano technology and a young woman and colleague, Patricia Murphy, Lew Surdam (PT '80), Director of Harvard's Piano Technical Services and his wife Toni have established the Patricia Murphy Scholarship Fund at North Bennet Street School. Their gift of over \$300,000, the largest North Bennet Street School has ever received, will provide critical financial aid in the form of scholarships to students in the Piano Technology Department. The first scholarship will be awarded in academic year 2009-10.

Lew has been involved with North Bennet Street School for many years, and says "nobody is getting as much satisfaction from this gift as we are." A graduate of the Piano Technology program, he now serves as an Advisor to the program. Lew and Toni are ardent supporters of and advocates for the School, for pianos, and for piano technicians.

Patricia Murphy (PA'94) – known to everyone as Patty – worked with Lew at Harvard.

Patty met her husband, Peter Cabot (CFM '95) while a student at North Bennet Street School. He observed that "Patty's love of playing the piano led her to want to know more about how pianos work. She never stopped searching for knowledge and continued to train and communicate regularly with teachers and associates. She worked with a deep humility and was always willing to share everything she knew."

Peter credits the Surdam's gift with enabling the school to "continue to produce passionate professionals." Says Peter, "Hopefully more people like Patty will be introduced to the piano technology community and will be able to spread their knowledge and passion and infect others as Patty infected us."

Walter McDonald, Director of Financial Aid, added "It is gratifying to have a scholarship honoring Patty Murphy, whose warmth and generosity has touched all of us. This gift will really open the door to prospective students who couldn't have imagined learning piano technology without such generous support."

"Nobody is getting as much satisfaction from this gift as we are."

– Lew Surdam –



TRADITIONAL CRAFTSMANSHIP, NON-TRADITIONAL EDUCATION: An exhibit of NBSS work at the Fuller Craft Museum.

## Fuller Craft Museum Exhibits NBSS Work

**R**ESPONDING to an offer by the Fuller Craft Museum to display the work of North Bennet Street School, a group of Cabinet and Furniture making students and graduates joined together to design and produce an exhibition that highlighted both the design and technical standards of a North Bennet Street School education.

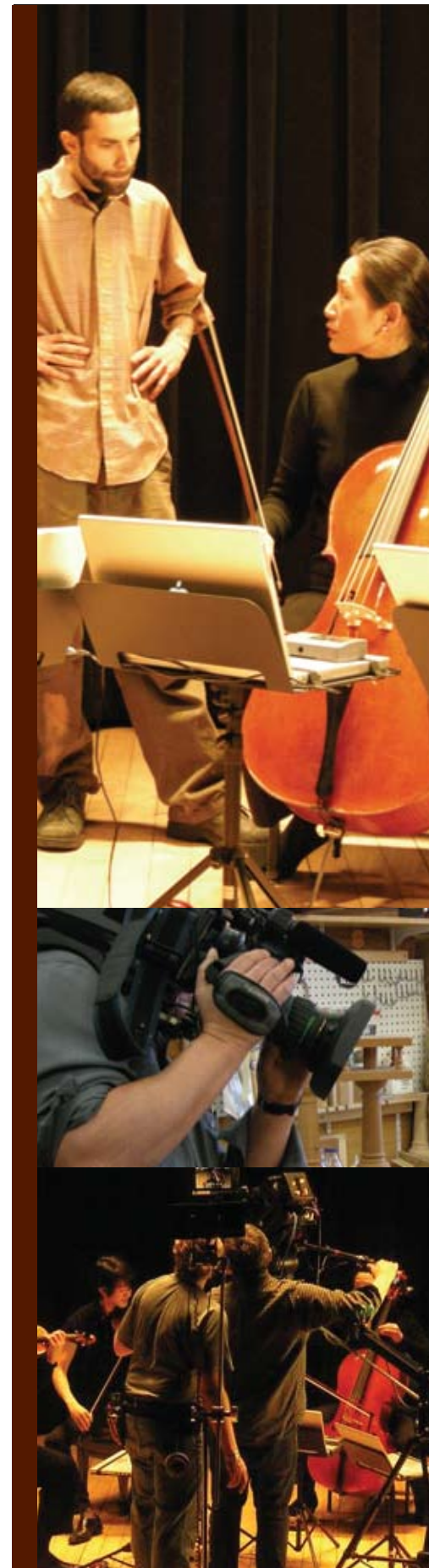
The exhibition, which was on view from October 2008 to January 2009, included an artful arrangement of handcrafted furniture, as well as a "hands on" educational section with a display case full of sample work, ranging from how to make a sand shaded fan to carving a ball and claw foot.

Laura Fuoco (CF'09) curated the show, and led the team that designed the display and staged the work at the museum. She described the project as "an oppor-

tunity to expand my education at NBSS and gain experience in another aspect of furniture making—sharing the work we create with the public."

"It became clear to me that it wasn't just about the furniture," she said, "but the way that it was presented. The show could be both a reflection of some of the signature pieces that come out of our program as well as an opportunity to engage people through the visual impact achieved by the design and layout of the show."

Current and former students who showed their work included Keith McIntosh, Devin Ream, Mike Leggett, Eli Cleveland, Kevin Mack, Robert McSwegin, Anita Tyiska, David Trees, Jamey Pope, Mike Fitzpatrick, Pete Michelinie, Earl Powell, Gary Bosse and David Hancock.



# Violinmakers to Be Featured on PBS Series This Fall.

IT'S A RARE TREAT when students of the North Bennet Street School's Violin Making program get a chance to hear one of their own hand crafted instruments played on stage by a professional musician. But when four student instruments are brought together to be played in concert by a world famous string quartet - and are recorded for eventual broadcast to a nationwide audience of four million viewers - the result can only be described as a once-in-a-lifetime thrill for the makers, as well as a "first" in the school's 125-year history.

This magical scenario played out in early March at the New England Conservatory in Boston, the culmination of three days of filming for an award-winning documentary series sponsored by the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) called "Craft in America."

The film crew had spent the previous two days at North Bennet Street School, recording a typical "day in the life" of students from each of the programs. Cameras, lighting and sound equipment roamed from department to department, capturing the processes of crafts teaching in action.

Of course, much of the focus was on the student violinmakers as they applied the finishing touches to some of the instruments that would eventually be played for the first time at the Conservatory the following day.

"It was a nervous time, because we wanted the instruments to be at their very best," said violin department head Roman Barnas. "We finished stringing the last one at about noontime and then raced across town for the one o'clock filming at the concert hall."

The four finished instruments - two violins, a viola and a cello - were transported by their makers Erika Safran, Alexis Tribble, Joseph McDevitt and Paul Trombly to NEC's Williams Hall, where they were presented to the four members of the Borromeo Quartet, the music school's quartet-in-residence.

In the hands of this internationally acclaimed and extremely gifted ensemble, the instruments performed superbly. Their sound was rich and vibrant when called for by the players. When the music transitioned to more delicate passages, the instruments responded with a prayerful serenity.

"What an awesome experience," said third-year violin student Safran. "It's nice to hear an instrument you've worked so hard on actually come to life."

The show's producers estimate that the finished episode will air in the late fall of this year, and be carried by the entire network of 340 PBS stations across the country.

# NBSS Students & Alumni Bring Hope to Lawrence

**R**UTHIE REYES sat among the already packed boxes with tears running down her face. That was her reaction as she watched the news coverage describing the fire that swept through a city block in Lawrence destroying the home that she and her family were set to move into in a few days. Her home was one of four Habitat for Humanity buildings that were wiped out in the seven alarm blaze. But today, a little over a year later, those tears of pain are replaced with tears of joy as Ruthie, her husband Felix, and four children once again prepare to move.

The protective panels used during construction have just been removed from the windows, the occupancy certificate has been approved and very soon the Reyes family will move in to their new home, thanks to the efforts of the Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity chapter, the hundreds of hours of labor the Reyes put in "sweat equity", and the countless hours of work by hun-



**AFTER:** With the help of NBSS volunteers, the homes were rebuilt and will be occupied this spring.

dreds of Habitat volunteers. The list of volunteers includes about 70 different NBSS students, alumni and faculty that have joined in on the monthly build trips over the last year.



**BEFORE** Last winter a fire devastated a block of homes being built by Habitat for Humanity in Lawrence.

The relationship between NBSS and Habitat for Humanity started in 2005, when a group of students decided they wanted to do something besides sit on the beach for spring break. After some planning, eight carpentry and preservation carpentry students bought their own plane tickets and volunteered a week of their vacations to travel to Fort Myers, FL. They worked with the local Habitat for Humanity chapter there to rebuild homes severely damaged by hurricanes the previous summer.

When the students returned from Florida, one of the trip organizers, Sean Hardeo (CA '06) decided to keep the humanitarian effort going by organizing monthly build trips for the Merrimack Valley chapter in Lawrence to help them build and renovate homes for families that could not otherwise afford them. The groups now average 8-10 people each month, with nearly 200 volunteers in all over the past 3 years. Anyone interested in joining a future NBSS build trip can visit the NBSS Habitat for Humanity website [www.nbsshabitat.org](http://www.nbsshabitat.org).

# GEARED UP FOR THE FUN!

Amanda Nelsen (BB '07)  
Alumni Council member

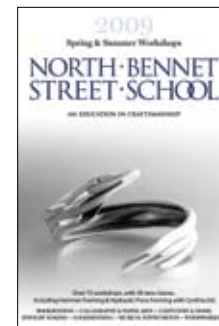
**GEARS, PEDALS, LASAGNA, AND GRANDMA THELMA'S DREAM BARS** were all present at the 2009 NBSS Student and Alumni party held at the Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation on March 7. The NBSS Alumni Council was very pleased to have over 200 come to explore this unique museum while catching up with classmates, instructors, staff and their families.

Violin makers, preservation carpenters, and locksmiths mingled together to share details of their current projects while furniture makers, jewelry makers, and piano technology folks enjoyed reaching across departments to share their experiences. Plenty of snacks and hot lasagna were served before the highlight of the evening- the door prizes. The music was selected and provided by Alumni Council members (and helpers) as were the desserts.

The event venue was discovered by Denise Feniglio (JM '06) and was an appropriate backdrop for the luddites and tool lovers among us- quite a collection eh? Thanks to all who made the event possible and to all who came to enjoy our great NBSS community. Hope you are geared up for another great party next year. Until then, keep making, keep baking, and have a great 2009.



Josh Ewart, Chris Knapp and Brian Horne, (all PC '08) at the Student and Alumni Party.



## From the Workshop Director

We are off to another exciting year of Workshop Programs. It has been my distinct honor to welcome remark-

able craftspeople **Regina and Dan St. John, Cynthia Eid, Tom Conroy, and Alan Lacer** to the school. In addition to leading outstanding workshops in areas as diverse as paper marbling and skew chisel techniques, these artists were kind enough to give lectures or demonstrations as part of our free public program series.

This summer we will host two musical instrument making classes: a **Baroque Violin Bowmaking** workshop with **David Hawthorne**, and a **Guitar Making Workshop** with **Thomas Knatt**. This fall we welcome **Maryanne Grebenstein** back to lead the first three month **Manuscript Gilding Intensive**. In this unique class – the only of its kind – students will spend time learning calligraphy, manuscript gilding and illumination, and bookbinding, and will hand-write, illuminate, and bind their manuscript.

I am also pleased to announce two new partnership programs. The Nantucket Preservation Trust is now offering scholarships to island residents to study traditional trades through the NBSS workshop program. Will have more details in the fall catalogue. In addition, NBSS is now a certified provider of continuing education credits through the American Institute of Architects. Look for the AIA/ CES logo in upcoming catalogues.

As always, I welcome your feedback. Please email me at [workshop@nbss.org](mailto:workshop@nbss.org) with any ideas or comments you have about the program.

Thank you,  
*Jourdan Abel, Workshop Director*



NBSS Workshop Director Jourdan Abel appeared on WBNN, the Boston cable TV channel, in Nov.

# Fire Wreaks Havoc but Major Damage Avoided

**I**N THE EARLY HOURS of the morning of October 2nd, 2008, Brian McQuay, NBSS resident superintendent, heard the alarm, left the building and met the fire trucks as they responded. A fire had started in the Violin Department's third floor finishing room, setting off both the sprinklers and the alarms. Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez, Executive Director, and Claire Fruitman, Associate Director, arrived around 3:30 AM. The sprinklers had functioned as they were supposed to, extinguishing the fire quickly. But the school was left with extensive damage from water which soaked the Violin Department as well as the Bookbinding, Workshop and Locksmithing classrooms situated below.



Roman Barnas, Violin Instructor, woke up to a call asking if there were any valuables that needed to be removed from his office, now under inches of water. His presence of mind rescued a valuable cello in for repair. Violin, bookbinding and locksmith students assisted the staff all morning, salvaging objects and minimizing the fire's impact on the school.

The insurance company's forensic analysis of the debris would later determine that the fire was caused by a defective light fixture in the finishing room light box. Three students' violins were in the light box when the wiring caught fire, and their instruments were singed beyond repair. Two other students had instruments in the room, but were able to repair the damage caused by the sprinklers.

The effects of the fire, or more accurately, its dousing, extended to the first year bench room and the office of the Bookbinding Department which were literally down stream. First year student Athena Moore's bench was directly underneath the finishing room, and her decorative papers as well as all of the books she had made were soaked—unsalvageable. "Better us than the second year students," said Athena, noting that books destroyed were non-adhesive bindings; quick to make and constructed of inexpensive materials.

In the Bookbinding office there was the same combination of destruction and relief. Several of the project models Instructor Jeff Altepeter had created for the program were lost, along with some of his fine bindings and a few antiquarian books. However, the water that poured into the office narrowly missed the departmental library just a few feet away. "We dodged a bullet," said Jeff, "most of the things that were damaged are replaceable." The incident became an educational opportunity for all the students, as they observed how water can wreak havoc with books, swelling them with the sudden increase in humidity and then buckling when the fans and dehumidifiers were brought in to dry the area.



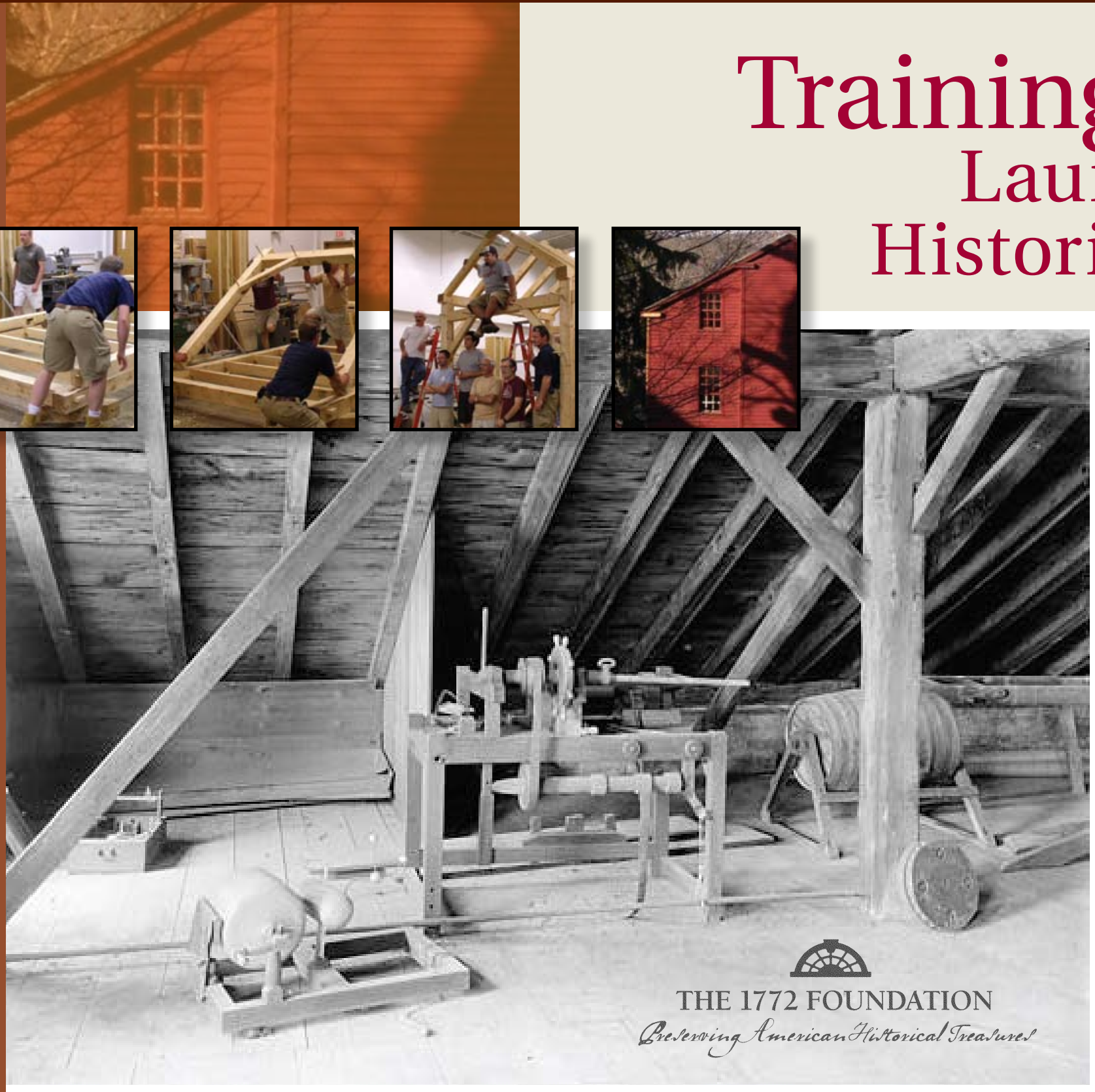
## Preservation Carpentry Students Restore Early 18th C. Barns

**SECOND YEAR PRESERVATION CARPENTRY** students began the restoration of the 270 year old White-Ellery House barn in Gloucester, MA, this fall. The barn is a rare surviving example of an early 18th century timber frame work building owned by the Cape Ann Museum which sits on its original foundation with much of its original fabric in tact.

The project is expected to take several years and will result in the barn re-opening to visitors of the historic house museum. The winter issue of the Museum's newsletter noted that "the Museum has been fortunate to establish what is hoped will be an on-going relationship with North Bennet Street School...the Cape Ann Museum is very pleased that the White-Ellery House barn was selected as a hands-on learning site by North Bennet Street School and looks forward to watching students progress."

The White-Ellery House, which dates to 1709 and is adjacent to the barn, is also undergoing restoration under the direction of Preservation Carpentry Advisor William Finch. The house was named for its original resident, Rev. John White, brother-in-law of Cotton Mather and a figure in the Salem witch trials.

**FIRST YEAR PRESERVATION CARPENTRY** students also had the opportunity to demonstrate their skills at the annual Maple Sugar Days at Brookwood Farm, Canton, MA. March 7 and 8, 2009, assembling and erecting a timber frame structure while visitors looked on. Brookwood Farm is the site of a large historic timber frame barn, dated from 1690 to 1750, which will be restored by the class over the next two years.



# Training Program Launched at Historic Shaker Site

*Continued from Page 1*

The North Family Site at Mount Lebanon Shaker Village, located in up-state New York just over the Massachusetts border, is designated as one of only six sites in this country on the World Monuments Watch List of 100 Endangered Sites. It was home to the central ministry and the governing community for America's Shaker movement. The North Bennet Street School training program will be a key component of the Preservation Plan for Mount Lebanon Shaker Village.

The grant will fund a Summer Internship and Training Program to be held at New Lebanon, NY. Through the school's Workshop Program, in-depth, hands-on courses will be offered in techniques for the restoration and repair of historic structures during the months of June, July, and August. The programs will vary in length from one to four weeks, and will combine theoretical training with practical experience, using the buildings at Mount Lebanon Shaker Village as both restoration projects and training opportunities.

In addition to the summer workshops, the program will provide summer internships for up to five North Bennet Street School Preservation Carpentry students, providing them with opportunities to practice skills that will build upon and expand their previous training. The interns will work under the direction of an experienced Senior Carpenter, restoring the buildings at Mount Lebanon's North Family. The internship and workshop program will begin this summer, when three NBSS students arrive in New Lebanon on June 29, to live on-site through August 21. The first workshop, teaching historic timber framing, will be held in August and taught by NBSS Preservation Carpentry Instructor Richard Friberg (PC '04).

A primary goal of the project is to provide preservation skills for local residents in an area that is the site of many historic properties. Workshop students will be drawn primarily from western Massachusetts and eastern New York, and will be eligible for scholarships provided by The World Monuments Fund. The project will also assist in the restoration of a designated National Historic Landmark site, and extend the reach of the nationally-recognized NBSS training programs.

  
**THE 1772 FOUNDATION**  
*Preserving American Historical Treasures*

# Alumni NBSS News

## CARPENTRY

After graduating, **Michele L'Heureux ('03)** ran her own carpentry business in Boston and Providence, then moved back into office life as a marketing professional. Two years ago, Michele pursued a lifelong dream of going to art school and graduated this May with an MFA in Painting from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, and is now looking for teaching jobs in the arts.

**Brent Hull ('93)** has a new book coming out titled *Traditional American Rooms*. The book is written for the lay person and progresses chronologically through the architectural interiors of Winterthur. His company, Hull Historical, is the official licensee of millwork for the Winterthur Museum. Brent was also the lead builder for Historic Fort Worth, Inc.'s 2008 Charity Designer Showhouse.

Feinmann, Inc, the company of **Peter Feinmann ('83)**, was honored in the 2008 Contractor of the Year Award competition with a Silver Category rank for Bath over \$60,000 and Residential Interior. This competition is sponsored by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) and Feinmann will now go on to the national competition. Feinmann, Inc. was recognized as a national winner by NARI the previous year.

## PRESERVATION CARPENTRY

On Sept. 17th, 2008 the five year restoration of James Madison's lifelong Virginia home, Montpelier, was completed. Several alumni worked on the project including **Edward Gomez (CFM '02)**, **Austin Antrim ('05)**, **Amy Wysocki ('05)**, and **Nick Oster ('06)**.

Moustaches Ahoy! **Christopher Knapp ('08)**, grew a moustache last November as part of the Movember charity event to raise funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer. He is happy to say he raised over \$1,000 and won the "Movember 2008 Best Mo Town Mo" award for Boston.

**Tom Decatur ('88)** joined the firm Carpenter & MacNeille, Architects & Builders, Inc. Essex, MA in March of 2008 and since then has developed and implemented the Home Services Division specializing in seasonal and preventative maintenance. Carpenter & MacNeille is a 35 member firm with offerings of architectural design, construction, and interior décor.

## JEWELRY MAKING AND REPAIR

**Holly Hawkins ('08)** got hitched! She is now Holly Hawkins Sabia.

**Adam O'Donnell ('06)** and his wife welcomed their second child, Aoife Addie O'Donnell, on Nov. 25, 2008.

**Gary Dow ('69)** and his wife Susan have moved to Camden, ME from Kingston, MA where he had owned and operated a shop for the last 11 years. Gary opened his new shop, Dow Jewelry Arts, in Camden on Dec. 5, 2008. It is located at 16 Tannery Lane in Camden Place.

## CABINET AND FURNITURE MAKING

**Charlie Kline ('05)** was elected President of the NBSS Board of Directors in December, succeeding **Burt Harris ('97)** who served as President from 2004-2008. (see story p. 11)

**Justin Kauffman ('07)** was awarded "Best in Show - Traditional Body of Work" at the Milwaukee Fine Furnishings Show in September 2008.

Last year **Sean Fisher ('94)** became a principle owner of Robert Mussey Associates in Boston. They specialize in conservation of period furniture and architectural woodwork for museums and private clients on the local and national level.

**James Watriss ('07)**, **Chris Kearney ('07)**, and **Don Price ('07)** have opened the doors of KPW in Lawrence, MA.

The three of them have joined forces, saying "More details and press releases will be forthcoming, but good enough to say for now that three more woodworkers have gone into business."

**Mike Greenberg ('09)** and his Chippendale chair won Best Traditional Piece of Furniture, Student Work at the 2008 Providence Fine Furnishings show. Along with the award Mike also receives a \$250 certificate toward a booth at this year's show. Mike has moved into a cooperative shop space in Concord, MA. **Kevin Mack ('08)** and **William Morrison ('07)** also exhibited at the 2008 Providence Fine Furnishings show.

**David Flanagan ('07)** owner of Wychmere Woodworks LLC, marks the 2nd anniversary of operations in Orleans, MA. His shop was included in an article on Cape Cod shops in the fall 2008 issue Home Remodeler Cape Cod.

**BA Harrington ('94)** is in a three person show at the Milwaukee Art Museum, "Remains: Contemporary Artists and the Material Past".

**JP Parnas ('08)** has opened a shop in Sherborn, MA. His website is [www.jpparnas-woodworking.com](http://www.jpparnas-woodworking.com).



**MOVING DAY:** **Walter Beebe-Center ('94)**, President of Essex Restoration, **Amy Karcz**, Business Manager, and **Glenn Batten**, Production Manager, "Moving some important equipment into our new shop."

**Matthew Wajda ('00)** delivered a talk entitled "Chair Making: Then and Now" this spring for the New Market Historical Society in New Market, NH.

**Robert Bortree ('84)** reports that his business, Robert Bortree and Associates is doing well. "We've been busy making some great new furniture and architectural woodwork." Check out the website at [www.robertbortreeandassociates.com](http://www.robertbortreeandassociates.com).

**Richard Oedel ('05)**, one of the partners of Fort Point Cabinetmakers in South Boston, was a keynote speaker at the Custom Woodworking Conference in Chicago March 18-20, 2009, sponsored by Custom Woodworking Business magazine, talking about strategies for growing equity in woodworking businesses in a tough economic climate. His website is [www.finefurnituremaster.com](http://www.finefurnituremaster.com).

**Ryan Rhoades ('08)** is now working at Mark Richey Woodworking in Newburyport, MA. He credits his instructors in CFM for the skills he uses everyday to make his living and the support of Student Services in finding the job.

## PIANO TECHNOLOGY

**Drew Carter PA ('05)** has moved from his hometown of Billings, Montana to New York City, where he is currently employed as a piano technician.

**John Stothoff, RPT ('09)**, has been selected for the highly coveted Tanglewood Summer Music Festival for the 2009 season. He will be joined by **Emily Townsend ('08)**, who returns this year as a senior apprentice. Emily is currently



**MICHAEL FITZPATRICK ('06)** donated a demilune table the Museum of Fine Arts Boston's 2009 "Give the Arts a Chance" auction.

living and tuning in San Antonio, TX.

**Matthew Quinlan, RPT, ('09)**, has been chosen to apprentice for the Eastern Music Festival in Greensborough, NC for this coming summer season. Along with tuning for the festival, Matt will be doing shop work with **John Foy ('79)** at his piano restoration shop in Greensborough.

**Robin Flint ('01)** is co-chair of the Choral Art Society in Scituate, MA. In other news, Robin and her husband, Stephen Gore, are signed up for the Pan-Massachusetts Challenge this summer. **Cate Gallivan ('01)** will be joining them as they ride the 47-mile Wellesley loop.



**Jim Kelly ('02)** was surprised to see a picture of himself and his daughter Megan on the cover of the NBSS 2008 Annual Report. He says of the picture, "most likely [it was] from 2000 when we came

at the age of eighty. In the 1960s, out of a desire to tune his own piano, Albert invented the Sanderson Accu-Tuner as an electronic "aid to the ear" for piano tuners.

**Erik Diehl ('09)** has been accepted for the summer Aspen Music Festival, for his 2nd year.

## BOOKBINDING

**Kathy Markees ('92)** was interviewed in December by BBC's The World (broadcast on NPR around Dec. 15) for a story on Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Gordon Library's Dickens Digitization project. Kathy is Co-Director of the project which aims to make available on the web all WPI's Dickens titles in their original serialized format. Kathy is also the bass player for 70's pop cover band—Danny Dark and the Black Souls, playing every Sunday night at the Lucky Dog Music Hall in Worcester (where the Rolling Stones played in 1981!).

**Mark Andersson ('92)** was featured in a January 2009 story in The Explorer News of Tucson, AZ. He was quoted, "There's no one in Arizona who does what I do. Half of my friends have said, 'Maybe there's a good reason for that,' and the other half said this sounds like a good opportunity." Mark's business is called Panther Peak Bindery. In January he gave a talk at the Oro Valley Public Library as part of their annual book festival.

**Monica (Feeney) Holtzclaw ('08)** has launched her bindery, Boom Box Bindery, and is selling on etsy.com. This winter she also submitted a fine binding to the 2009 Designer Bookbinders International Competition. To find out more about what's happening with

to an Open House. I nearly fainted when I saw us on the cover of a report that is probably all over the world by now." Megan is now a Junior in college and Jim's business, Fur Elise Piano Service, continues to grow. Jim also reports, "In March I am teaching a three hour class at our local University Life Long Learning Center called Inside the Grand Piano. That should be a blast since I will get to take a Kawai RX2 apart to explain how the piano works, and what is involved in tuning, regulation, repair and construction of a grand."

**Michael Disque, RPT, ('05)** and **Hale Jacob, RPT, ('06)** have teamed up in Rising Thirds Piano Service, which provides tuning, regulation, voicing and repair in the New York City Area.

**Christine Lovgren, ('81)** and PT instructor, taught "Instrument Repair in the Music Education Program: Piano" this January to Music Educators as part of the Boston Symphony Orchestra Professional Development Workshop program.

Long time PT advisor **Albert Sanderson** died in November



**A 600KW WIND TURBINE** is now providing power for **Mark Richey Woodworking**, Newburyport, MA, where **Greg Profido (CF '88)** is COO.

Monica you can visit her blog: [monicaholtscraw.blogspot.com](http://monicaholtscraw.blogspot.com).

After eighteen years at the Boston Athenaeum, **Barbara Adams Hebard ('90)**, has been named the Conservator of the John J. Burns Library at Boston College. During her time at the Athenaeum, Barbara became a Professional Associate of the American Institute of Conservation, a Fellow of the International Institute of Conservation, and a board member of the New England Conservation Association. In her new role at the Burns Library, she will be responsible for 200,000 rare books dating back to medieval times. The first Burns conservator was **Marilyn Heskett ('88)**, who graduated with the first class of bookbinders. Barbara will replace former bookbinding instructor **Mark Esser**, who was conservator from 1994 to this year, and who taught Barbara at NBSS. "I feel very honored to follow in the footsteps of **Mark Esser**," says Barbara. "It occurs to me that I now have the start of another workbench genealogy—Marilyn, Mark and me—all with NBSS connections!"

**James Reid-Cunningham ('90)** has been named the adjunct lecturer in the history, technology and conservation

# NBSS Alumni News

of the book in the graduate program in art conservation at Buffalo State College, NY.

**Sam Ellenport**, advisor to the Bookbinding program, and the Harcourt Bindery were featured in the January 2009 issue of *First: the Book Collector's Magazine*. The article described Harcourt's history and its current place in the trade. Sam has two DVDs about Harcourt's production processes for sale, *Bookbinding at The Harcourt Bindery, 2006* and *Nineteenth-century Bookbinding Techniques at The Harcourt Bindery*.

**Amanda Nelsen ('07)** will be showing her piece, *Kinkade Recycled*, at the CUE Art Foundation in New York City as part of the Joan Mitchell Foundation MFA Grant Recipient Exhibition in June of 2009.

**Wendy Withrow ('08)** recently relocated with her husband to the Midwest in order to start her own business, *Windy Weather Bindery*. Check out the website at [windyweatherbindery.com](http://windyweatherbindery.com). Wendy is also keeping a blog under the "news" section of the site.

**Susi Barbarossa ('96)** is a conservation technician and Harvard University's Houghton Library. In March she delivered a talk, "Simple cradles for book exhibitions," at the Houghton Library.

## LOCKSMITHING

**Barbara Zillman ('07)** vacationed in Kenya in spring of 2008. "I went on safari - 12 days I think - with three other women. Probably the most

amazing experience of any trip I've ever taken. Apparently, it's rare to see 'the big five' on a first trip to Africa (hopefully I will get back there - I loved it!) but we saw lions, cheetahs, leopards, rhino, hippo, buffalo, elephants and an abundance of gazelles, giraffes, wildebeests and various other animals. Amazing. Really like striding back in time, it's so primeval and untouched in areas of the reserves we visited. ...In the higher altitudes near the peak of Mt. Kenya, the evenings were cool and it was more green and lush. In other regions, we saw and experienced both desert and savannah and, for us, extreme heat. Of course, it really is all in what you're used to, isn't it? The night we arrived in Nairobi, it was about 66 degrees and humid. My companions and I were all quite comfortable in shirts and light sweaters. Our guide greeted us in Polar fleeces!"

## VIOLIN MAKING AND REPAIR

**Dennis McCarten ('06)** is happy to announce that, after two years in temporary quarters, McCarten Violins is moving into its permanent home at 1005 Main Street, Suite 8201, Pawtucket, RI. A Grand Re-Opening Party is planned.

Tarisio, an online fine stringed instrument and bow auction house, was featured in the Nov. 3, 2008 issue of the *New York Times*. The article discussed the economy's impact on instrument auctions. Violin Dept. advisor, **Chris Reuning**, co-founded Tarisio in 1999.

Thanks to **Justin Hess ('11)**, the violin department had the good fortune in March to have access to a very rare cello made by Joseph Filius Andrea Guarneri in 1660. There are only few of such instruments in the world. While it was at the school it was carefully documented and a tracing was taken by a team that included visiting lecturer **Benjamin Ruth**, former instructor **Kevin Kelly**, substitute instructor **Marco Coppiardi**, current instructor **Roman Barnas** and the students.

Last year Violin Department Head **Roman Barnas** became a member of the American Federation of Violin and Bow Makers. The Federation is an elite organization with an extensive set of parameters for selecting new members to assure high working standards and professionalism in its members. After the pre-qualifying process, candidates must be voted in by the members of the Federation. Congratulations Roman!



**BARBARA SABLONE** served as Receptionist and later as the Assistant to two Executive Directors at North Bennet Street School from 1971 to her retirement in 2001. The long time North End resident died on February 23, 2009.

## Mason & Hamlin, Steinway Donations

Mason & Hamlin, a world renown piano manufacturer in Haverhill, MA has donated a complete set of their newest, high-tech composite carbon fiber action parts to the Advanced Piano Technology department. The parts will be used in the rebuilding of a Mason & Hamlin Model A that was donated to the department last year. The department has also received donated action parts from Steinway & Sons of New York City. A Steinway model L, donated to the department last year, is receiving new Steinway shanks and flanges and hammers.



## KLINE ELECTED PRESIDENT

At December's Annual Meeting Charlie Kline, a 2005 graduate of the Cabinet and Furniture Making program, was elected President of the Board of Directors. He succeeds Burt Harris (CFM '97), who served as President from 2004 to 2008.

According to Kline, "to me, what is really unique about NBSS is pretty simple. Every student is here because he or she wants to be here, has worked hard and saved and rearranged his or her life to come here. There is a sense of urgency about learning and becoming a craftsman that makes the culture of the school. In my career outside of North Bennet Street I have seen how rare that spirit is. You see it most often in a good start-up company. And in a way everyone here is starting up - intending to start a new business or a new life. It gives the place a really rare feel."

The new President is a Partner and a Managing Director at Century Capital Management, a public and private equity fund management firm based in Boston. He and his wife, Charlotte, have three children.



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

## Benchmarks

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

Do you have news to share?  
Contact us at [newsletter@nbss.org](mailto:newsletter@nbss.org)

## NBSS Calendar

- May 8-16, 2009  
**ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF STUDENT WORK**  
Boston Architectural College
- May 15, 2009  
**SAM MALOOF FURNITURE MAKER Artist Presentation**  
North Bennet Street School
- May 21, 2009  
**ANNUAL EVENING OF TRADITIONAL CRAFT**  
Hill Hurst, Wellesley, MA
- May 29, 2009  
**NBSS GRADUATION EXERCISES**  
Old North Church, Boston
- June 15-19, 2009  
**DAVID HAWTHORNE: BOW MAKING Workshop**  
North Bennet Street School
- June 11-13, 2009  
**FURNITURE SOCIETY CONFERENCE**  
Boone, NC
- July 13-31, 2009  
**GUITAR MAKING INTENSIVE Workshop**  
North Bennet Street School
- July 15-18, 2009  
**PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD**  
National Convention, Grand Rapids, MI
- August 3-13, 2009  
**HISTORIC TIMBER FRAMING NBSS Workshop at Mt. Lebanon Shaker Village**  
New Lebanon, NY
- September 14-December 18, 2009  
**CALLIGRAPHY AND ILLUMINATION Three Month Workshop**  
North Bennet Street School
- October 24-25, 2009  
**YANKEE SECURITY Locksmith Convention**  
Sturbridge, MA

# Be Inspired...

**THE ANNUAL EVENING OF TRADITIONAL CRAFT RETURNS TO ITS ROOTS**

The Annual Evening of Traditional Craft, celebrating its 10th year, will return to where it all started in 2000 - Hill Hurst in Wellesley, MA.

During the cocktail reception guests will be able to view an exhibition of exceptional work by graduates of the school, from intricate book bindings to elegant furniture, musical instruments and jewelry – and meet our graduates to learn firsthand from them about their work.



**Thursday, May 21, 2009 from 6-8 PM  
Hill Hurst, Pond Road, Wellesley, MA**



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