



LIFE-LONG LEARNING

Jewelry instructor Lisa Hunt examines Keiko Nomoto's work.

At the core of North Bennet Street School is a commitment to professional craft training that leads to fulfilling careers and lives. Continuing to enrich the full-time programs, expanding continuing-education opportunities and building programs for youth, as well as adults, creates a life-long learning environment that keeps the school growing and inspiring.

Featured Stories

- 4 LIFE-LONG LEARNING**
- 5 EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD**
- 6 SEEDS OF LEARNING**
- 7 PLAYING STRINGS**
- 8 A NEW LOOK**
- 15 LEAVING A LEGACY**

10 *Alumni News*

13 *Calendar*

14 *NBSS News*



PLAYING STRINGS AND MAKING BOWS

Violin making and repair students benefit from expert guest teachers.

page 7

A NEW LOOK

A new logo, new photography and new graphic treatments provide a fresh look at the school and the people who make it special.

page 8



LILLIAN DIGIORGIO

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Since 1981, Lillian DiGiorgio has served as a vital and dependable member of the NBSS staff—she is the eyes, ears and heart of the school. For first-time visitors to the school, she is the friendly and helpful face that greets them. When she worked in the admissions office, she was often the first to conduct informal interviews with prospective students and made them feel at ease. For many students and colleagues, she is a sympathetic listener, and they visit her office regularly to chat with her. She is a wonderful storyteller and has a wealth of stories about living in the North End, raising her family and visiting with her cherished grandchildren.

Lillian is also a discerning editor and finds mistakes in spelling and dates after everyone else has reviewed copy. Her long tenure provides the school with invaluable institutional memory, especially with respect to the holiday parties, Halloween visits from North End preschoolers and other important community events. Alums who return to school are pleased to be recognized and often greeted by name.

Always up for a party, Lillian has occasionally been seen on the dance floor.

Thank you Lillian—for making NBSS days brighter for all of us.

Student and alumni party

For the 5th year, students and alumni from all departments and several generations enjoyed what has become the annual Alumni Council's Student and Alumni Party.

The party, on April 2 at the Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation, featured music, catered food, an All-Star Table Hockey Tournament, spinning tops, a video screen showcasing NBSS' recognition in the media and door prizes from well-known suppliers such as: *Chena River, Fretz, Harmatan Leather, Hewitts, Historic New England, Historic New England, Hollanders, Metropolitan Music, P&S Engraving, Pergamena, Pianoteck, Regina St. John, Schaff Piano Supply, Talas, Timber Framers Guild, and Woodcraft.*

Planned and executed by the tireless efforts of the NBSS Alumni Council and Party Chair—Emily Scott, JM '08—this yearly party celebrates all that was, is and will be NBSS.

Special thanks for the generous support of the party sponsors who helped make the party exceptional and to the members of the Alumni Council for their hard work, endless enthusiasm and commitment to bringing alumni and students together to network and celebrate. And thanks to all who came to meet, reconnect and party in good company. See you next year!



Current students and alumni party at the annual student and alumni party.

Top left to right: Sarah Pancoast, Justin Hess, Erin DeLuca, Alan DiPesa, Garrett Becker, Nicole Aiken, Corey Sawn; middle: Emily Van Heukelom and Samuel Feinstein.

Alums support current students through the Annual Fund

THE ANNUAL FUND NEEDS YOU

Gifts to the Annual Fund help nurture the tradition of fine craftsmanship.

In the Fall, a generous donor offered a marvelous challenge opportunity to graduates—all Annual Fund contributions from first-time contributors, as well as any increases in gifts made by previous alumni donors, would be matched on a one-to-one basis.

Alumni responded in record numbers! Seventy-four individuals made qualifying gifts to the fund totaling \$6,257.50. The matching gift brought the total to \$12,515. A heartfelt THANK YOU to all who participated.

Scholarship funding is a priority at NBSS. Gifts to the Annual Fund go to work immediately providing financial aid to students, ensuring the excellence of NBSS educational programs by supplying tools and resources to the programs, and reducing reliance on tuition income. To make a gift to the Annual Fund, use the enclosed envelope—or make a gift online at www.nbss.edu.



THE MYTH OF COLLEGE FOR ALL

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

A study released recently by Harvard's Graduate School of Education faults the country's educational system for being too focused on a traditional college education as the sole pathway to success in the 21st century. Titled *Pathways to Prosperity*, the study concludes that an educational system with "a narrowly defined college for all goal—one that does not include a much stronger focus on career-oriented programs that lead to occupational credentials—seems doomed to fail."

As evidence that the traditional route to college fails to prepare millions of young adults for successful careers, the study cites dismal college graduation statistics, despite years of promoting the idea that a college education is essential for a middle class life: "Nearly 70 percent of high school graduates now go to college within two years of graduating. But only about 4 in 10 Americans have obtained either an associate's or bachelor's degree by their mid-twenties." Students drop out because they are bored; their classes are uninteresting and do not appear to be providing a pathway to achieving their dreams.

The study results will not be surprising to many students at North Bennet Street School, the vast majority of whom have enrolled in college and left, either before or after graduation, because they did not thrive in a traditional academic setting or because they were no longer interested in the jobs that they were being prepared for.

The study's conclusions also affirm the importance of the efforts undertaken by North Bennet Street School over the past two years to reach out to the public schools, and confirm the lessons learned. Public vocational high schools are too often filled with students who have demonstrated behavior problems

rather than a particular talent. High school students who do not feel motivated to continue with additional years of classroom-based education too often see themselves as losers, rather than as individuals with a future whose gifts can be developed elsewhere. Because these attitudes are formed well before the high-school years, North Bennet Street School has begun a pilot program to add hand-skills training to the middle school curriculum at the John Eliot K-8 School in the North End. In its second season, teachers and school administrators have seen marked improvements in school attendance and performance, especially among learners who excel in applied learning settings.

Opponents of the case for the development of multiple pathways leading from high school to post-secondary education or career training criticize it as yet another attempt to create tracks with lower standards that will route a disproportionate number of poor and minority students into second class educations and second class lives. But those criticisms are based on assumptions that are anathema to NBSS.

First, critics assume that vocational training is a path to a life with fewer financial and social rewards. Second, they assume that vocational programs deny those students an education that includes the type of abstract thinking that is essential in the "information age" or the "knowledge based economy."

Nearly 70 percent of high school graduates now go to college within two years of graduating. But only about 4 in 10 Americans have obtained either an associate's or bachelor's degree by their mid-twenties.

No student who has left a college program or a white collar career to come to North Bennet Street School would agree that he or she has lowered their standards or accepted a lesser goal in life. On the contrary, those students say that they have raised their expectations for a meaningful life in making their decision to enroll.

And no student here would accept the premise that hand-skills training is devoid of abstract thinking or functions at a lower intellectual level. The depth of knowledge accessible through a specific craft adds heightened powers of concentration, perception and discernment, and an internal understanding of excellence.

The choice between college and craft training is not a value judgment, it is a choice to be made based on one's gifts. *Pathways to Prosperity* makes the case that this choice is not now, but should be, available to all. ☺

SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Full descriptions, dates and details are online at www.nbss.edu

BOOKBINDING

Book Repair: The Cloth-Case Reback
Sewn-Board Bindings
Paper Dyeing with Plants
Introduction to Leather
Modernizing the Historic Book Structure
Boxes and Enclosures for Books

CALLIGRAPHY

Manuscript Gilding
Hand Lettering - Five Styles
Calligraphy Intensive

CARPENTRY & HOME

Stair Building
Historic Timber Frame
Window Sash Restoration
Platform Framing
Sharpening Clinic

JEWELRY & METALS

Jewelry Making: Cold Connection
Fundamentals I of Jewelry Making
Fundamentals II of Jewelry Making
Silver and Hollowware
Soldering Strategies for Fabrication

WOODWORKING

Fundamentals of Fine Woodworking
Fundamentals of Machine Woodworking
Machine Woodworking: Shaker Table
Fundamentals: Handplanes and Chisels
Decorative Inlay
Fundamentals: Dovetails
Turning for Furniture Makers
Elements of Chair Construction
Introduction to Spindle Turning
Introduction to Shapers
Pie-Crust Serving Tray
Continuous Armchair with Pete Galbert
Drafting for Furniture Makers
Machine Safety: Routers
Machine Maintenance: Bandsaw
Machine Maintenance: Table Saw
Shaker Oval Boxmaking
Georgian Footstool

LIFE-LONG LEARNING

At the heart of North Bennet Street School are the students and faculty in the eight full-time programs. Surrounding this core of passionate makers is a much wider community of individuals who care about traditional crafts and who want to learn a new skill or perfect and expand an existing practice. Among this group are children and teens—naturally curious and fearless makers who often have few opportunities to learn hand skills.



JEROME MACE PC '10 AT MOUNT LEBANON SHAKER VILLAGE

North Bennet Street School's workshop program was developed to respond to this wider interest. Recent partnerships with local colleges and universities and a commitment to increase master classes and classes for children and teens is the beginning of an expanded focus on life-long learning. As part of the commitment to these goals, the school has renamed its 'workshop program' the 'department of continuing education.'

This Spring, we've added informal lectures and demonstrations to the schedule with a series of lecture-format presentations in March and April. The Summer schedule includes master classes as well as several workshops for children, families and teens. The partnership with the Mt. Lebanon Shaker Village, now in its third Summer season, provides an opportunity for makers from around the country to enjoy a learning vacation in the pastoral setting in Mount Lebanon, New York. Closer to home, the joint NBSS/MassArt Furniture Design Certificate program provides an opportunity for furniture makers to learn and enhance their design skills.

We welcome your suggestions, both general and specific, on life-long learning courses and workshops for you and for the craft-loving adults and children in your lives. Write or call continuing education director Megan Kenealy at mkenealy@nbss.edu / 617-227-0155 x102. ©

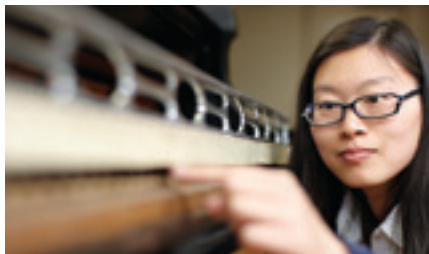
Experience in the field

Every year, the piano technician for Tanglewood, Steve Carver, comes to NBSS to interview students for coveted piano technician internships at Tanglewood. In a typical season, three aspiring technicians spend the summer as resident interns and one or two are almost always NBSS students. Last summer William Grueb, PA '11 spent the summer between basic piano technology and advanced piano technology as one of the interns. "The ten weeks went unbelievably quickly" said Grueb "I left the experience feeling better prepared for the finite details of concert tuning." Among Grueb's favorite stories are: learning that the musician leading the master class he just prepared a piano for was Emanuel Ax and that the special project he volunteered for was to work on John Williams' piano.

It was satisfying and important to see the significant role piano technicians play in making each performance a success.

Jon Guenther, PA '11, currently a second year piano student, spent last summer at the Aspen Music Festival in a similar program. "It was satisfying and important to see the significant role piano technicians play in making each performance a success," said Guenther. "Having the opportunity to work side-by-side with great technicians from around the country helped further my knowledge and skills. Combining my NBSS education with excellent hands-on experience working at the festival has helped propel me towards a successful career as a piano technician."

The Boston University Tanglewood Institute (BUTI), a summer camp for music students from across the U.S. and from other countries, also has a piano technician internship program. The week-long program has been organized by Xiaodan Liu PA '08 for the past three years. Xiaodan and a handful of first-year piano students spend a week in June tuning approximately forty upright and grand pianos provided by Yamaha. In the summer



Piano students Liao Liu and Rebekah Wortman.

of 2010, eight PT '10 students participated—Patrick Branstetter, Jason Carter, Ryan Maas, Jan McCloud, John Otis, Paul Piszczek, John Thompson and Helen Weston.

During the year, advance piano students spend one week at Brandeis University. Each student is assigned one piano and spends the week doing minor repairs, tuning and regulation. Advanced piano students also spend time at Boston University and New England Conservatory and respond to individuals who seek piano tuners. Approximately 50 private clients contact the school each year and pay students \$75 to tune their pianos. First-year piano technology students have several unpaid opportunities to practice their craft including tuning pianos at Boston University, M. Steinert & Sons and Harvard University.

Organizations such as the Boston Symphony, the Aspen Music Festival, Boston University, New England Conservatory, Harvard University, the Boston Public Schools and M. Steinert & Sons, choose to partner with North Bennet Street School because of the consistently high quality of the students who intern with them. In turn, these hands-on field experiences become one of the foundations and benefits of a NBSS piano technology education. The intensive school-based instruction combined with the experience working with instruments in the field and being able to talk about those experiences with other students and instructors shape today's students into graduates whose skills and knowledge are in demand. ☺

PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The NBSS Alumni Council will soon launch a pilot program designed to help ease the transition of students into the professional world. Students are necessarily focused on developing their craft while in school and the reality of the 'real' world comes quickly after graduation. The objective of this new program is to help new graduates benefit from the experience of those who have gone before. To that end, we are creating a network of graduates who are willing to share their expertise, answer questions and offer advice to those who need it. New graduates will benefit from new professional connections and will be encouraged to use the program as needed. In addition, we hope the network will double as a resource for all graduates, providing a forum for sharing information on materials sourcing or tips and techniques within the craft. We envision a program that strengthens the connections between students and alums, giving each the opportunity to enrich their professional practices.

The pilot program is limited to graduates of Bookbinding and Jewelry Making and Repair programs. It is hoped that, should it be successful, the program will expand to the other disciplines. For more information, contact either Denise Fenoglio JM '06, denisefenoglio@comcast.net or Ken Gilbert BB '10, kgilbert@townisp.com of the Alumni Council. ☺

ALUMNI COUNCIL

meetings are open to all alumni, write to Jason Gregoricus at jgregoricus@nbss.edu for more information.



ANDY GLENN CF '08



Left: Andy Glenn provides drafting guidance; right: 7th-grade student with finished her box project

SEEDS OF LEARNING

By ANDY GLENN, CF '08, Lead teacher of the middle-school program

The first group of this year's middle-school students from the John Eliot School have finished their NBSS woodworking course. Each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday one class of 6th-, 7th- or 8th-grade students walks to NBSS from the Eliot School for a 50-minute class focused on hand tools and woodworking skills. They completed four projects during the course: a pencil sharpener, a small carved box, a mixing spoon and a chest (as a group project). The class chests will be auctioned at the Eliot School and the proceeds will be used for materials and tools for the program.

We developed the course with the Sloyd system in mind. The goal is to have students use their minds and hands together to complete each task and make a useful object. The difficulty of each task increased as the students learned and developed new skills. The first project is from the

Sloyd manual, Elementary Sloyd and Whittling, by Gustaf Larsson. Dan Cheek CF '10 and I begin each class with a short lesson that covers the skills and information needed for the day's lesson. Time is spent demonstrating the safe use of each tool and then students are given time to manipulate the tool and become comfortable using it.

Most students have very little knowledge of hand tools and haven't used a hammer (or any other tools) before taking the class. When a new project is introduced, students are shown the finished objects and the tools used to make it. The students know some of the tools (tape measure and hand saw) but have no experience with others (T-Square and rasp). I held up a hand plane in a recent class and asked what the tool was called and its use. From the back of the room a young man yelled out, "It's a boot jack!" Dan and I are learning too, we had never thought of that use for the familiar (to us) hand tool. ☺

The goal is to have students use their minds and hands together to complete each task and make a useful object.



7th-grade student with finished wooden spoon.

Major gift supports middle-school program

A recent major gift from the Lynch Foundation provides invaluable support to the three-year pilot program in woodworking for middle school students from the John Eliot K-8 School, now in its first year. The grant will support the development and implementation of a program evaluation system. Initially designed for sixth grade students, the program has expanded to include seventh- and eighth-grade students. Major funding for the three-year program is provided by the Mabel Louise Riley Foundation and the Boston Foundation for Architecture, and the sixth grade program is also funded by a grant from the Frances R. Dewing Foundation. ☺

Playing strings and making bows

To enhance the violin-making experience, Joseph Kromholz, a concert violinist and educator, spends one afternoon each week teaching violin performance to the students in the violin making and repair program. The students, who range from accomplished string players to talented makers with little music background, are taught individually at the level appropriate for them.



JOSEPH KROMHOLZ, CONCERT VIOLINIST, TEACHING AT NBSS

Joseph's skills and experience complement the expertise of Roman Barnas, the head of the violin program. Roman, a master violin maker and teacher, focuses on the complex instrument-making process. Joseph teaches students how to play the violin. "Combining the making of violins with playing provides a more balanced and full experience for the students" says Barnas "...and it's fun and satisfying to play the instruments we make."

Joseph Kromholz began playing the violin at age five, and has studied with Itzhak Perlman, Miriam Fried, Paul Kantor, and with the Julliard and Cleveland Quartets. He has performed in venues across the world and is a founding violinist of the award-winning Vesuvius (now Linden) Quartet. He has taught chamber music, music theory and presented master classes at several prestigious music schools. Joseph is currently completing his doctorate at New England Conservatory and, this summer, he will join the Ravinia Festival in Chicago as the Artistic Coordinator of the Steans Institute.

David Hawthorne, a maker of bows for stringed instruments and a master at his trade, is another regular guest instructor in the violin making program. He began bowmaking with William Salchow and later studied with Stephane Thomachot in Paris. He headed the bow department at Reuning and Sons in Boston for eight years. His formal education includes a Bachelor of Music from Berklee College of Music, and two Masters of Music (Jazz Guitar and Composition) from New England Conservatory. His work on both modern and baroque bows has received numerous awards and praise from internationally acclaimed musicians. His shop is in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In addition to the expertise of master teachers, violin students benefit from high-quality printed resources. A four-volume, 50-pound set of books focusing on Antonio Stradivari instruments is the newest addition to the violin-making library. The books include hundreds of photos, many full-scale, and is accompanied by a CD that includes precise measurements of the instruments. Joining the Stradivari set is a finely illustrated retrospective of Carlo Bergonzi's life and work, a lesser known Cremonese violin maker. The book was a gift from a current violin student's family. ☺

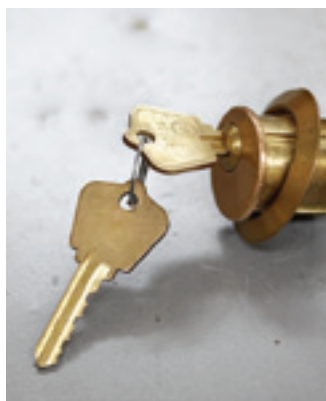


David Hawthorne, master bowmaker.



Coveted new Stradivari and Bergonzi reference books.

Certification for locksmith students



The Associated Locksmiths of America (ALOA), an international association of locksmithing professionals, now recognizes the clock hours students spend in the locksmith program at North Bennet Street School toward certification. If recommended by Dave Troiano, the department head, students automatically receive their Registered Locksmith certificates.

If, at the end of the program, students take and pass the Proficiency Registration Program test, which will be administered at the school, they receive a Certified Registered Locksmith certificate. The first PRP test will be administered in May 2011. Although many states do not require locksmiths to be registered or certified, these certifications are necessary for government work and most institutional work.

Dave Troiano, in addition to teaching every day, is currently taking classes toward a Low Voltage Systems Technician Class D license (and eventually his Systems Contractor Class C license). Once he is licensed, NBSS students will receive credit for their time at NBSS toward their Class D training. ☺



The new website will look something like this...only bigger !

Over the past several months, NBSS print and online publications have begun to be redesigned to reflect a new visual identity for the school. We have updated the logo, adopted new colors and refreshed the photography we use to represent the school.

Photography By HEATHER McGRATH

A NEW LOOK FOR NBSS



WATCH FOR THE LAUNCH OF THE NEW WEBSITE IN MAY | NBSS.EDU

This is the first issue of Benchmarks to use the new design, new admissions materials are in the works and we are poised to launch the redesigned website.

While NBSS prides itself on teaching traditional skills and respects the history of the school, we are also committed to maintaining our reputation as a vibrant and relevant contemporary institution. The interests and background of current students and prospective students are different from those of the students from 15 or 20 years ago. Advances in communications technology, digital photography and changing graphic design styles can make logos, photography and graphic design treatments seem outdated if they are not refreshed periodically. The goal of this redesign is to represent the creative energy of the school, to appeal to the wide range of students who seek an education in craftsmanship and to remain relevant to alumni and supporters of the school.

In addition to a new look, readers of Benchmarks and the monthly electronic newsletter, visitors to the website and prospective students who receive our catalogs will find new content including more student, faculty and alumni profiles. More news about the school and links to related articles and exhibits.

As you peruse this issue of Benchmarks, visit the new website and read the monthly electronic newsletter, send us your comments and your critiques. Your stories, news about your craft-related practice and suggestions for related stories are all welcome. By sending your ideas and opinions, you contribute to the dynamic and exciting community that is North Bennet Street School.

Juan Pablo Blanco
Cabinet and Furniture Making '12



I was studying and working in my own workshop in Bogota Cundinamarca, Columbia before coming to NBSS. I came to improve my techniques and learn from experienced teachers.

worked in my own shop in Columbia

Profile sampler

The new website includes dozens of student, faculty and alumni profiles. The profiles illustrate the rich and diverse community that is NBSS. Included here are excerpts from a few student profiles. Visit the profile gallery on the new website for these stories and more. ☺

was a fashion design major



Anne Jenkins
Preservation Carpentry '11

I was attending Parsons School of Design for fashion design. I didn't like the atmosphere of the school and wasn't interested anymore in being there. I chose NBSS because it felt like the right thing to do at the time and I knew I would learn GREAT skills not many others would have.

had a career in photographic arts



David Leahy
Locksmithing '12

When I was 10 years old, I dug up an old key while playing in our backyard in Melrose. Attached to the key was a heavy metal tag with raised lettering. I was immediately fascinated by the key and tried to imagine where it came from, what it opened and the treasure inside. I kept the key for as long as I can remember. A 22-year career in the photographic arts ended in 2010 and now I've landed at NBSS, studying locksmithing.

has a mechanical engineering degree

I graduated from university in Hong Kong with a mechanical engineering degree two years ago. After university, I went into a multi-national engineering and designing firm and worked as a mechanical engineer. It has always been my dream to work with pianos. I'm a piano player.



Ka Chun Ng
Piano Technology '11

STUDENTS BLOG

Current students Henry Hebert and Mike Ogden are blogging about their NBSS experience. In Hebert's blog, he chronicle's his experiences as a first-year Bookbinding student (henryhebert.wordpress.com). Ogden blogs about woodworking, he began the Cabinet and Furniture Making program in February (diablowoodwork.blogspot.com).

FOLLOW US ONLINE

North Bennet Street School now has a Facebook page, a LinkedIn Group and the latest addition, a twitter account. If you are a twitter user, follow us @NBSSboston and retweet to spread the word. Like us on Facebook and add to the online dialogue; join the LinkedIn Group to network and stay connected with others in the growing NBSS community.



was a lawyer



McKey Berkman
Bookbinding '11

Trained as a lawyer, I worked as a volunteer for a number of non-profits while raising my children. After my fourth child graduated from high school and knowing I did not want to go back to law, I decided to explore bookbinding. The collegiality at NBSS is unparalleled as is the excellence of the training and the opportunity to learn with talented, interesting and supportive classmates.



OCTOBER 2010 » ALUMNI AND STUDENTS PLAY CROQUET

It's not all work

A gaggle of students and alumni spent an idyllic Sunday in October playing a mostly civilized game of croquet...many using mallets they made or customized. The event was organized by the Alumni Council. If you would like to participate in the planning of Alumni Council events, write to Jason Gregoricus at jgregoricus@nbss.edu. If you aren't receiving program notices and are missing the fun, send your current email address to Jason.

BOOKBINDING

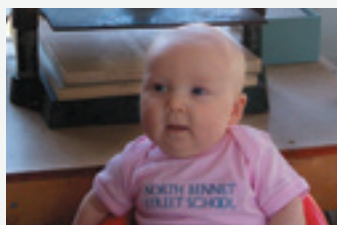
Alison Kuller, BB '99 received a *Good Idea* grant from the Maine Arts Commission. Her work is exhibited at CRAFT Gallery, Rockland, ME.

North Bennet Street School Bookbinders visited the bindery of **Mark Andersson, BB '92**, during the national standards meeting in Tucson last October.



Mark's Panther Peak Bindery in his Picture Rocks home was the subject of a recent feature story in the *Tucson Explorer News*.

Wendy Withrow, BB '08 welcomed daughter Mira last Fall.



Wendy Withrow's daughter Mira.

Aude Gabory, BB '09, wrote to Benchmarks with a correction. Her baby Julien, featured in the Fall issue, is a boy!

Barbara Adams Hebard, BB '90 was included in two book exhibits—*Bonefolder Journal*, online exhibition—2010 *Bind-O-Rama* and *New Views: Midwest Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers, 2010* exhibition which is traveling to Illinois State University, Michigan State University, Iowa State University.



The binders sitting outside, risking attack by snakes and other things, during their visit to Mark Andersson and Diane Hanover's recently completed house in Tucson.

Rebecca Smyrl, BB '05 recently moved to a new condominium in Philadelphia's Center City West neighborhood. She is a book conservator at the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts.

Cary (Chandler) Leighton, BB '06 married Myles Leighton at Cambridge City Hall on August 9, 2010 and in May 2011 will receive a bachelor's degree in Humanities with a major in Creative Writing from Harvard Extension School. In addition to a new husband, she has a French bulldog named Bert.

According to the *St. Anthony MN Park Bugle*, the first book **Anna Shepard, BB '12** made was her autobiography at age 12.

CABINET AND FURNITURE

The works of NBSS alums **Austin Matheson, CF '03**, **Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez, CF '99** and **Bruce Eaton, CF '06** are featured in a new Taunton publication *Blanket Chests: Outstanding designs from 30 of the World's finest furniture makers*.

The Institute of Classical Architecture and Classical America presented their 2010 Award for Artisanry to **Phil Lowe, CF '74** for his reproduction Sheraton armchairs at the Pierce-Nichols House in Salem, MA.

The furniture of **Ainsley Donaldson, CF '73** was exhibited at the Beebe Gallery, Melrose MA this fall.

In a *Boston.com* profile, **Todd Maul, CF '06** attributed his success as a professional bartender to the attention to detail and respect for materials he learned at NBSS.

Steve Brown, CF '90 is featured in an online interview and video in *Fine Woodworking* magazine. The interview takes place during a visit to the Connecticut Historical Society Museum in Hartford and focuses on evaluating and measuring period furniture.

Tommy MacDonald, CF '02, hosts *Rough Cut*, a new PBS series beginning last Fall. Learn more, view the schedule and find a station near you. The *Rough Cut* team

also includes faculty member **Steve Brown CF '90**, **Eli Cleveland, CF '09** and **Al D'Attanasio**.

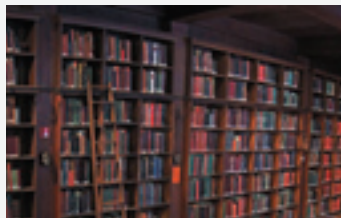
Steve Brown, CF '90 and **Will Neptune, CF '81** were both presenters at the Society of American Period Furniture Makers February 26 meeting in Connecticut.

Kevin Mack, CF '08, was featured in a recent issue of *The Melrose Patch*.

Tommy MacDonald, CF '02 is featured on the cover of the January issue of *Fine Woodworking* magazine. In the magazine, he is shown making an Early American Blanket Chest.

NBSS president and Weston resident, **Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez, CF '99** is the focus of the artist profile in the January issue of the *Wellesley Weston* Magazine.

Workshop instructor and NBSS resident steward **Andy Glenn, CF '08** built library shelves for Harvard Musical Association's (HMA) Wait Room concert hall. HMA values its partnership with NBSS and includes many members of the school community as members, including book-binding advisor **Sam Ellenport**, long-time associate director **Walter McDonald**, piano technology advisor **Lew Surdam** and overseer **Nancy Maull**, and NBSS staff member and current HMA president **Sheila Perry**.



New library shelves for HMA built by Andy Glenn CF '08.

Kevin Mack, CF '08 won, for the second year in a row, the "Best in Show-Traditional Furniture" award at the Fine Furnishings Providence Show. He was featured in *Woodworkers Journal eZine* and *Made in New England* on the *Chronicle* TV show. His work was also exhibited at the Beebe Estate Gallery in Melrose, Massachusetts and at Wood Expo.

Mickey Callahan, CF '89 was published in *Fine Woodworking* building a Chippendale corner chair and slip-seat upholstery.

Mickey is the past president and co-founder of the Society of American Period Furniture Makers (SAPFM).

Anthony Ferrigno, CF '02 has bench space available in his shop in downtown Salem, Massachusetts. The rent is \$600/month and includes use of shop machines. Contact Tony at 781-526-9192 or apferrigno@verizon.net for more information.

Will Neptune, CF '91 and **Mickey Callahan, CF '89** discovered a Seymour dresser at the Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, CT. The museum's furniture collection is not catalogued, although they have several original Monet, Degas, and Whistler paintings, and a collection of 6-century BC Corinthian pottery. Robert Mussey authenticated the Seymour dresser for the museum.



Seymour dresser discovered at the Hill-Stead Museum.

Erin Hanley, CF '07 won second place in the Custom/ Studio Furniture category of the Vermont Fine Furniture and Wood Products Design Competition held in Woodstock, Vermont in September. The award was for a pear and rosewood side table with a parquetry top made from shop sawn veneers, and a caned shelf.



Erin Hanley and her award-winning side table.

An exhibit of **Dan Phillips, CF '07** drawings and furniture at the Webb Gallery in Dallas, Texas was reviewed widely and positively in print and online publications.

Gary Bosse, CF '09 is restoring antique furniture at Gallery XIV in Framingham, Massachusetts where they recently completed the restoration of a roll top desk for Harvard.

Paula Garbarino, CF '88 participated in AD 20/21: Art and Design of the 20th and 21st Centuries at the Cyclorama in Boston.

In addition to doing commissions, **John McCormack, CF '88** is the Lead Instructor in the Youth Boat-building Program at the Spaulding Wooden Boat Center in Sausalito, California. The program is building a 16 ft lapstrake cat rigged sailboat with a group of middle and high school students. He presented on the Spaulding's program at the California Industrial Technology Education Association in Fresno, CA. He is

also working with a pair of Junior Apprentices through the Baulines Craft Guild. They are building a Baidarka,—an Aleut-skin on wood-frame kayak.

JEWELRY MAKING

Rosemary Trainor, JM '91 head of the Jewelry Making and Repair program at NBSS, is featured in the March/April issue of *Art Jewelry* magazine. Trainor talks about the jewelry program and the value of jewelry internships and apprenticeships as part of the education process.

Saedis Halldorsdottir, JM '09 was featured in *Atlantica* magazine. The article focused on the area in Reykjavik, Iceland where she recently opened a studio/store.

In October 2010, **Geraldine Kish Perry, JM '00**, and business partner Robert Fairbank relocated their custom fine jewelry gallery and workshop to a bright, spacious storefront on Main Street in Concord, MA.

Seth Tanguay, JM '07, of Tanguay Jewelers (tanguayjewelers.com) in Gardner, Massachusetts was featured in a Boston Sunday Globe interview that was published in the Money & Careers section.

The work of **Erin DeLuca, JM '11**, was featured in an article published recently by the *Redding (CT) Pilot*.

LOCKSMITHING

DJ Dabenigno, LK '05, Owner, Dabbs Locks (dabbslock.com) in Medford, Massachusetts was featured in a Boston Sunday Globe interview that was published in the Money & Careers section.

PRESERVATION CARPENTRY

Daniel DiPaolo, PC '04 of Preservation Carpentry in Lynn was featured in a Boston Sunday Globe interview that was published in the Money & Careers section.

Sally Fishburn, PC '91 is presenting a lecture on wooden window restoration in six Vermont communities. The lectures are financed with a grant from the U.S. National Park Service Certified Local Government Program and administered by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. Sally also teaches a 3-day window restoration workshop for the Preservation Education Institute in Windsor, Vermont.

Adam Rissolo, PC '08 was married on October 2, 2010 to sweetheart Kathryn Burns. They welcomed Stevie Louise Rissolo to the family on March 1, 2011.



Stevie Louise Rissolo

The "marvelous millwork" of **Brent Hull, PC '93** in Dallas TX was featured in *D Magazine* this Fall.

PIANO TECHNOLOGY

Andy Reach, PA '09 is happily tuning in Georgia where his recent clients include Grammy winner Babbie Mason and Paul Simon (yes, that Paul Simon). When not tuning pianos, Andy is singing with the Atlanta Vocal Project.

Boaz Kirschenbaum, PT '03 recently announced a new business venture, Island Piano Rental specializing in event and concert piano rentals on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. He and his wife **Sakiko Isomichi, PT '07** also do rebuilding and repair work. Recent projects include a 1963 Yamaha G2 (partially rebuilt) and next up are two more Yamaha grand rebuilds, a Bechstein upright, and a Steinway upright. When not rebuilding pianos, Boaz hosts a weekly radio jazz program on Sunday nights called Jazz with the Nightfly (www.wvvy.org), plays in a jazz trio and writes a monthly column for the Piano Technicians Guild.

Xiaodan Liu, PA '08 of Excel Piano (excelpiano.com) in Watertown was featured in a Boston Sunday Globe interview that was published in the Money & Careers section.

Hannah Nancy Bartlett, PT '99 and **Michael Bartlett, VM '99** welcomed 6lbs 3oz Veronica Anne Bartlett to the world on November 1.



Veronica Anne Bartlett

We have been notified of the "very peaceful" death of **Shigeto Kakuta, PT '06** by his wife Kazuko. Shigeto had been suffering from colon cancer.

VIOLIN MAKING

Colin Skofield, VM '05, recently joined Carriage House Violins, a branch of the well-known Boston shop Reuning & Son. The newly opened workshop is in an historic mill building in Newton Upper Falls. Drop by to say hello and visit his new website: colinskofield.com

An article in *In Jersey* magazine featured **Erika Sayar, VM '09** and "The Violin Doctor", her shop in Allenwood, New Jersey. She was also profiled in an article in the *Asbury Park Press*.



Erika Sayar VM '09 at work.

Sef Gray, VM '08 and **Katherine Westermann, BB '09** announced their engagement and have a wedding planned for the summer. Sef presented Katherine with an antique family ring restored by **Tracey Jenkins, JM '05**.

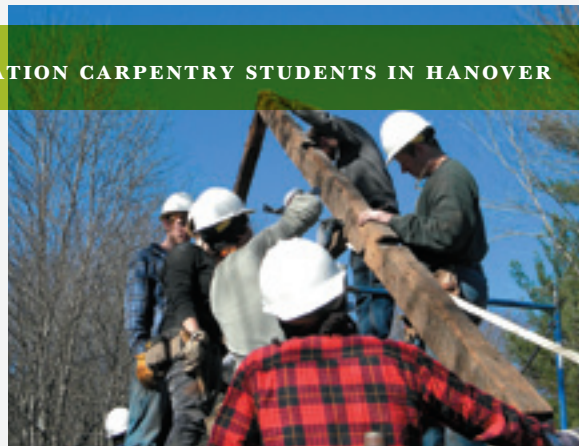
The Craft in America exhibit on view from June to December, 2010 at Silver Dollar City, Kansas City MO featured a violin by instructor **Roman Barnas**, a viola by **Rosemary Clancy, VM '10** and a cello by **Sef Gray, VM '08**.

A violin made by instructor **Roman Barnas** won a Certificate of Merit for Tone at the November Violin Society of America meeting in Oberlin, OH.

PRESERVATION CARPENTRY STUDENTS IN HANOVER

Barn unraising

An eighteenth century barn owned by the Town of Hanover was documented, tagged and carefully disassembled by first year Preservation Carpentry students. The barn parts were loaded into a 40-foot trailer and stored, hopefully only until next summer, when the town Community Preservation Committee can decide where to rebuild it and for what purpose. Moving the barn made way for affordable housing.





TOM MONAHAN

We are sad to report that Tom Monahan, a 2007 graduate of the Cabinet and Furniture program, died December 3, 2010, after a lengthy struggle with ALS. Tom came to North Bennet Street School after an early career as a bluegrass musician and a later career as an award winning graphic designer for IDG's Computer World magazine. After graduation he contributed his design skills to the redesign of the school's newsletter Benchmarks, and served as the newsletter's designer until his disease prevented him from continuing. NBSS classmate and architect Jean Pierre (JP) Parnas (CF '08) contributed his architectural talents to the redesign of the Monahan home in 2009 to make it wheel chair accessible.

"Tom and his wife Mary Lester adjusted their lives as time went on with the most positive, inspiring attitude," said NBSS President Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez, who first met Tom as a member of The Furniture Society in 2003. "He was always making jokes. I saw him in his last week and he was still able to smile." A memorial celebration and roast was held in Tom's honor at the Charles River Museum in Waltham, Massachusetts. ☺

Featured items in the NBSS gallery and store

The NBSS store and gallery sells a line of high-quality Robert Sorby tools including Chisels (\$199 for a set of five), turning tools (\$249 for a set of six) and spiraling tool systems (\$189). Visit the store often for tools and for the finest hand-crafted gifts.



CALENDAR

APRIL 30, 2011

BOOKBINDING IN AMERICA IN THE 19TH CENTURY
Symposium at NBSS

MAY 1, 2011

BOOKBINDING FOR TEENS
All-day workshop at NBSS

MAY 5-7, 2011

LETTERING & CREATING A GUESTBOOK
Three-day workshop at NBSS

MAY 9 - 13, 2011

EXPLORING THE ALBUM STRUCTURE
One-week workshop at NBSS

MAY 9 - 20, 2011

STUDENT EXHIBIT
One International Place
reception May 12, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

MAY 12

DESIGNING AND OPTIMIZING YOUR WEBSITE
Evening marketing intensive at NBSS

MAY 17, 2011

ANNUAL EVENING OF TRADITIONAL CRAFT
Cyclorama, Boston Center for the Arts

MAY 17, 18 & 19

INFORMATION SESSIONS
Full-time program admissions info sessions and tours

MAY 19

MARKETING YOURSELF: BRANDING
Evening marketing intensive at NBSS

MAY 21-22

INTERMEDIATE BOWL TURNING
Two-day workshop at NBSS

JUNE 3, 2011

GRADUATION EXERCISES
Old North Church

Visit the website (www.nbss.edu) for a comprehensive list of events and workshops.

NEW STAFF



Megan Kenealy joined NBSS as the new Director of Continuing Education in February. Megan comes to NBSS from the Fuller Craft Museum where she was the Community Programs Manager. You can reach Megan at mkenealy@nbss.edu. See related story on life-long learning on page 4.



Rob O'Dwyer joined NBSS as the Director of Admissions in January. Rob joins Admissions Coordinator James King and Director of Financial Aid Jamie Dergay to fill the third desk in the newly renovated admissions office. Before coming to NBSS, Rob worked in the admissions office of Emmanuel College Graduate and Professional Programs. He is a film maker and videographer, an actor on stage and television and a musician. You can reach Rob at rodwyer@nbss.edu.

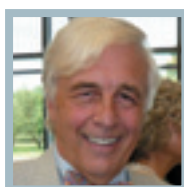
Changing of the guard

At the December 15, 2010 Annual Meeting, the School thanked and recognized outgoing Directors: Daniel Cheever, Bruce Dayton, Charles Fayerweather, J. Kimo Griggs, Burton Harris, Isaiah Jackson, Francis J. Lynch III, Peter N. Nessen and Jane Wilson. The Board of Directors unanimously voted the outgoing Directors on to the Committee of Overseers and elected seven new Directors:

Brian C. Broderick | Brian is a Partner at Hemenway & Barnes, LLP, where he serves as a private fiduciary and guides clients in their personal, business, and charitable estate planning.



His charitable and community activities focus on educational opportunities, access and improvement. He regards NBSS as a gem in Boston's educational crown. He is a past president of the Boston area Parents Alliance for Catholic Education, has been a volunteer at Cathedral High School in Boston and has served on the annual fund boards at Xaverian Brothers High School and Newton Country Day School of the Sacred Heart.



H. Nichols B. Clark | Nick is the founding Director of The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art where he is now its Chief Curator. Nick also served as the Chair of Education at the High

Museum of Art in Atlanta after holding posts at the National Gallery of Art, Lamont Gallery at Phillips Exeter Academy (Director and Instructor) and the Chrysler Museum of Art (Curator of American Art).

Peter S. Feinmann, CA '83 |

Peter served on the Board of Overseers and continues to serve as a Program Advisor for the carpentry department. He chaired the 125th Anniversary Celebration and the Annual Evening of Traditional Craft. Peter is founder and president of Feinmann, Inc., a residential design/build firm in Greater



Boston. He has won numerous awards including multiple "Contractor of the Year" awards, Remodeler of the Year from the Builders Association of Greater Boston as well as the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2008 and was chosen by Remodeling Magazine as one of the country's "BIG 50 Remodelers."



Paul F. McDonough, Jr. | Paul is returning to the Board after two terms as an Overseer. He is counsel at Goulston & Storrs, specializing in real estate financing and development.

Paul serves on the boards of a number of organizations including Historic Boston, Inc. (President 1979-2003), Massachusetts Historical Commission, Preservation Action, Inc., USS Constitution Museum, Trustees of Reservations, Trust for City Hall, National Trust for Historic Preservation—Legal Defense Fund and Boston Civic Design Commission.

Jonathan E. Pucker | Jon is Director of the Pucker Gallery in Boston and previously was Senior Director of Sales at The Timberland Company and General Manager at PSG Framing. He also supports and helps guide organizations such as Year Up, Families First and manages the Pucker Family nonprofit annual event.



Peter H. Talbot | Peter serves as Senior Vice President at U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management. He began his career at State Street Bank where he worked in the

Private Client group. Peter is head of the Advisory Board for the Center for Family Business at Northeastern University.

Edmund C. Toomey | Ed has a

distinguished career in educational and nonprofit administration which includes Boston Architectural College (Provost), Lesley University, (COO), New England Aquarium (President and CEO), Boston Committee, Inc. (VP), University of Massachusetts, Gonzaga University, St. Louis University and Georgetown University. He also serves on the boards of Zoo New England and Young Entrepreneurs Alliance. ☺





NATALIE Q. ALBERS

I saw a need and I was delighted to find a way to fill that need. My goals were to leave a legacy for North Bennet Street School while at the same time making a provision for my own financial future.

LEAVING A LEGACY

Natalie Q. Albers has lived in New England for most of her life. She heard about North Bennet Street School when she was living in Milton and was delighted to be asked to join the Board in 1980, beginning a 20-year Board tenure and a further decade as a member of the Corporation and Overseer.

During her time on the Board, Natalie served on a number of committees including the Scholarship Committee. As she read scholarship applications, she learned that a North Bennet Street School education was a life-changing opportunity for students.

As a result of her engagement and her understanding of the value of a NBSS education, Natalie was inspired to make a Legacy Gift to the School. She set up a Charitable Remainder Trust for which NBSS is the beneficiary. Natalie receives the income generated by the trust during her lifetime. Natalie states, "I saw a need and I was delighted to find a way to fill that need. My goals were to leave a legacy for North Bennet Street School while at the same time making a provision for my own financial future." Natalie believes that her gift will inspire her children to do something similar—and she is thrilled to know that her gift will help future generations fulfill their dreams of productive and creative lives spent working in traditional trades.

As the result of her gift, Natalie is now a member of the 1885 Society, North Bennet Street School's Legacy Giving Society.

North Bennet Street School encourages donors to talk to their financial advisors to determine if a Legacy Gift is right for them. For many donors, a gift made through their will is the easiest way to make a contribution to North Bennet Street School. Dianne Butt, Director of Development, is happy to discuss a Legacy Gift with you or your advisor. She can be reached at 617-227-0155 x750 or dbutt@nbss.edu. ☺

Is NBSS in your inbox?

Increasingly we are using email to send news and event notices to alumni and friends. If you aren't getting the monthly e-newsletter, it's probably because we don't have your current email address. Included in the emails are discounted workshops for alumni and news about competitions, exhibits and scholarships.

Send your updated email address and other contact information to info@nbss.edu. Your email address is safe with us. We never share or sell our lists and we broadcast from secure servers. We look forward to hearing from you.

BENCHMARKS | The newsletter of North Bennet Street School

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Send news and comments to newsletter@nbss.edu

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Rhyme and Meter Book by Christina Amato, BB '07

May 17, 2011, 6:00–8:00 pm
at the historic Cyclorama at the
Boston Center for the Arts, Boston

ANNUAL EVENING

OF TRADITIONAL CRAFT

Be part of the celebration at the **12TH ANNUAL EVENING OF TRADITIONAL CRAFT**. This gala cocktail reception showcases the extraordinary work of North Bennet Street School students and alumni. View intricate book bindings, elegant furniture and exquisite jewelry and musical instruments. Join us for this unparalleled opportunity

to meet the artisans and other craft enthusiasts. Funds raised at Annual Evening support the scholarship program and help ensure the excellence of a North Bennet Street School education. You can become a sponsor or purchase tickets to Annual Evening using the secure online payment form at **NBSS.EDU**. We look forward to seeing you there.

Become a sponsor or purchase tickets to Annual Evening using the secure online payment form at nbss.edu (click on 'Events').

