



## BUILD, RENEW, EVOLVE

Carpentry students build a house from the ground up. Story on page 5.

Building things is what we do at North Bennet Street School — every day. Students build houses from the ground up, shape instruments large and small from raw timbers and create jewelry from precious metals. Respecting the fine artisans of the recent and distant past, students renew old buildings, rebuild grand pianos and fix antique locks. The school is continuously evolving to meet changing technology, career demands and community opportunities.

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### **COREY BUILDS A BASS**

A third year violin-making student undertakes a super-sized project.

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### **EVOLVING WITH THE TIMES**

A timeline that highlights the evolution of NBSS educational and social service programs.

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Violin 2009, John Thorell, VM '12

## STUDENT AND ALUMNI EXHIBIT

This year, for the first time, the exhibit associated with the Annual Evening of Traditional Craft and the Annual Exhibit of Student Work have been combined into one blockbuster event that is on view for two weeks in the lobby at 125 High Street in the heart of the financial district near the Rose Kennedy Greenway. The exhibit is curated by former NBSS Associate Director Walter McDonald and is not to be missed.

*The exhibit is open to the public  
May 7 – May 18, 2012  
Suggested viewing hours are  
8:00 am – 8:00 pm daily.*

The Annual Evening of Traditional Craft is 6:00 – 8:00 pm on Tuesday, May 8 at 125 High Street.

To purchase tickets go to [www.nbss.edu](http://www.nbss.edu) and find 'Annual Evening' under 'Friends/Donors' or call 617-227-0155 x306.

## Restored sashes for the oldest church in Boston

First Parish Church in Dorchester was the second church in the Massachusetts Colony, the third in New England and, through Dorchester's annexation, became the oldest church in Boston. First Parish's fifth church building, built in 1816, was destroyed by a fire in February 1896. The congregation hired the renowned Boston architectural firm Cabot, Everett and Mead and by May 1897, a new Colonial-Revival building stood tall. Strong evidence suggests First Parish Church is one of the oldest ecclesiastic examples of Colonial-Revival architecture in the nation.

To undertake much-needed repairs, the 80-member congregation is raising \$5.2 million. One of the first projects was restoring the window sashes, work done by NBSS preservation carpentry students.

Many of the 115 year old sashes required repairs to prepare them for glazing the new and old glass back into the frames. Students became expert glass cutters by cutting to size over one hundred pieces of glass from sheets of reproduction cylinder glass ordered for this project. Almost half of the glass in the twelve-over-twelve sashes were Plexiglas and needed to be replaced. The installation of



Preservation carpentry students work on the First Parish Church windows.

the restored windows included bronze weather stripping to tighten up the building envelope and reduce drafts.

See more photos online at [www.nbss.edu/news](http://www.nbss.edu/news)



## A new catalog

For decades, prospective students learned about the school from an elegant black-and-white catalog with a dark blue cover. The content and photos were updated occasionally but the design remained consistent. With the new visual identity, new website and new photography it was time to reinvent the catalog. The new catalog arrived in March after months of careful editing and design. The catalog complements the website and the print and online advertising, creating a consistent impression of the school as a vibrant, contemporary institution with an unwavering commitment to traditional skills.



## TRADITION AND TRANSFORMATION

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

If there is one word we like to use at North Bennet Street School it is the word “traditional.” The word appears twice in our mission statement, first in reference to “traditional trades” and later to the “craft tradition.” According to the dictionary, tradition is an inherited or established pattern of thought or behavior, or the handing down of information from one generation to another by word or example.

Handing down information by word and example from one generation to the next is the foundation of NBSS instruction and, I believe, we also adhere to an inherited pattern of thought and behavior. Ours is a school based on a founder’s vision of service to others — a vision that continues to act as an institutional rudder, profoundly influencing our course.

But if there is one word that comes to my mind when thinking about the school, it is the word “transformational.” Students come to North Bennet Street School to change their lives; they come to learn the skills that will enable them to do meaningful work. I know. I did it myself and I see it every day.

It takes effort to come here. It takes a commitment of time and money. It takes the financial and moral support of family and friends. It also takes courage to leave the known for the unknown, trust in ambition and a vision for one’s self, and faith in a future that, by definition, can only be imagined. Graduation at North Bennet Street School, held in the historic sanctuary of Old North Church to the cheers and cat calls of attending friends and family, is as moving as the best Hollywood ending.

Transformation does not take place only at an individual level, it takes place in institutions and society as well. An outline of the history of North Bennet Street School reveals an institution that has transformed itself over and over for 131 years — from a provider of education and social services for Boston’s immigrants by dedicated volunteers to an internationally-recognized professional school of craft. Along the way, the school provided education and opportunity for generations of veterans returning from generations of wars and thousands of Bostonians seeking meaningful employment. The current challenge is the prospect of a new home that will enable the school to carry its mission far into the future.

Some of the school’s evolutionary changes were triggered by changing circumstances and changes in society and others were driven by new inspirations and new ideas. As with individual students, each transformation took a commitment of time and money, a vision for the future and the self confidence to venture beyond what was known.

*The current challenge is the prospect of a new home that will enable the school to carry its mission far into the future.*

Confidence is perhaps the key word. Transformation takes confidence. For the school, change requires confidence in the school’s mission and confidence in the school’s leadership, especially at the Board level, to guide the school in a way that is both prudent and ambitious.

Tradition is at the school’s core, but transformation is the work we do, on an individual level, on an institutional level, and, if we admit to our highest ambition, on a societal level as well. ☺



### MAKING IT GRAND (AGAIN)

Every year, advanced piano technology students, working in teams of two or three, completely dismantle, rebuild and restore grand pianos. The pianos are either donated to the school or done on commission for individuals who pay the school for the work.

Pictures showing the process of rebuilding one of the pianos currently underway are featured in an evolving story on the NBSS website (find a link on the piano technology page).

The piano featured in the story is a Mason & Hamlin model BB grand piano made in 1905. The seven-foot instrument is owned by Old South Church located in Copley Square in Boston's Back Bay. Advanced piano students Michael Wilson, Jennifer Holmes and Liao Liu began work on the piano in September.

"North Bennet Street School was selected for this project based on the knowledge and breadth of perspective that faculty members would bring to the process, for the dedication and ability the program's advanced students would bring to the hands-on work, and to contribute to the profession's emerging next generation by supporting NBSS's outstanding training with a high-quality instrument that will showcase the results of the thought, skill and care it is receiving." Michael Hand, Old South Music Committee.

*See all the pictures online and visit often to watch the process. 📷*



Corey Swan makes the first cuts in the aspen wood used to make the back and sides.

## COREY BUILDS A BASS

Violin making and repair students build five violins, a viola and a bowed-stringed instrument of their choice during their three years at NBSS. Many choose to build a sixth violin, some build a cello. Corey Swan, who will graduate from the program in June, is building a bass.



The bass resting on its cradle in the violin shop.

Before coming to NBSS, Corey received a BA in music for double bass performance from the University of Northern Colorado, making building a bass a particularly compelling challenge. Corey began the project in November using an 1820 Enrico Ceruti instrument that is being restored at the Pawtucket Rhode Island shop shared by Tucker Densley and Zachary Martin as a model. After hundreds of hours and several trips to Rhode Island to compare his instrument to the Ceruti, the bass is well on its way to being complete by graduation.

*To see more photos of this project, visit the NBSS website, [www.nbss.edu](http://www.nbss.edu), and go to the violin making and repair page. If you or someone you know is interested in purchasing the instrument, contact Corey directly at [swan6797@gmail.com](mailto:swan6797@gmail.com). 📷*

*“In addition to the rewards of seeing our new house take shape, working with the students and receiving a positive response from the community is priceless”*

— GREG MACKINTOSH, CF '04



See more pictures online at [www.nbss.edu](http://www.nbss.edu). Go to the “Carpentry” page under “Education.”



## BUILDING A HOUSE FROM THE GROUND UP

Working on projects for clients is a foundation of the NBSS carpentry program, but it's rare for students to have the experience of building a home from the ground up.

For students enrolled this year, the stars aligned and that's exactly what they are doing. The clients are Greg and Brooke Mackintosh and the property is in Carlisle Massachusetts. Greg is a 2004 graduate of the carpentry program and this is the second project that NBSS students have done on his property

(last year they put up the shell of an expanded garage and Greg finished the interiors). The couple is living in the finished garage space while the house is being built.

Greg, who is at the site working along with carpentry instructor Patrick O'Shaughnessy and the students, finds the teaching role very rewarding. “In addition to the rewards of seeing our new house take shape, working with the students and receiving a positive response from the community is priceless.” said Greg.

More photos are on the NBSS website and an article about the project was published in January in the *Carlisle Mosquito*. 📸

## SUMMER WORKSHOPS MAY — AUGUST 2012

### BOOKBINDING

Springback bookbinding  
Bookbinding Intensive  
Introduction to book structures for conservators  
Millimeter Binding

### CALLIGRAPHY

Italic lettering  
Manuscript gilding  
Hand lettering, five styles  
Calligraphy concertina

### CARPENTRY & PRESERVATION CARPENTRY

Introduction to interior trim  
Historic timber frame  
Window sash restoration

### DECORATIVE PAINTING

Trompe L'Oeil  
Decorative painting techniques

### JEWELRY MAKING

Introduction to forging  
Fundamentals of jewelry making I  
Fundamentals of jewelry making II  
Setting small stones  
Soldering strategies for fabrication  
Cold connections

### WOODWORKING

Introduction to spindle turning  
Machine woodworking: trestle table  
Fundamentals of fine woodworking  
Fundamentals of machine woodworking  
Introduction to turning green wood  
Windsor rocking chair with a comb back  
Introduction to bowl turning  
Decorative Inlay  
Three month furniture-making intensive

### ADULT AND CHILD CLASSES

Let's work together: toolbox  
Let's work together: shadow boxes

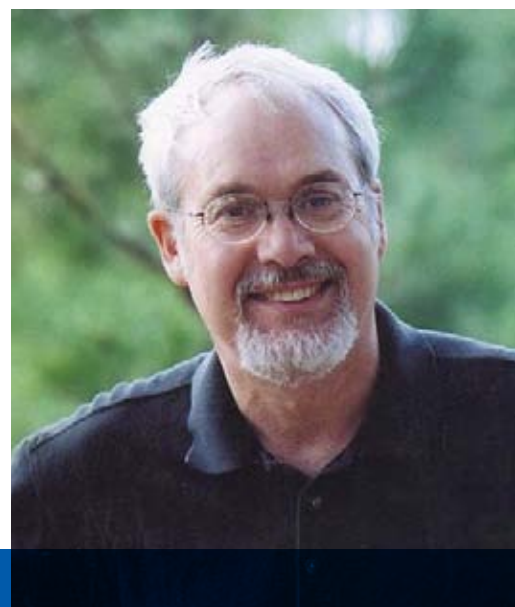
FOR DETAILS AND TO REGISTER,  
GO TO [WWW.NBSS.EDU](http://WWW.NBSS.EDU).



Travel to southern France and stay in the Château de La Napoule as part of the classroom abroad.

## BEYOND THE FULL-TIME PROGRAMS

The activity at NBSS isn't contained to the full-time programs. Dedicated shops and bench rooms are filled during the days, evenings and weekends with continuing-education students participating in a wide range of workshops and short courses.



Guest lecturer and workshop leader Doug Stowe (photo Alan Smith) and one of his boxes.

Programs are based on the same principals as the full-time programs and focus on hand-skills training. Included are introductory programs for individuals interested in learning a new skill and advanced programs for professionals seeking to enhance their practice. Because of the highly-regarded reputation of NBSS, students come from near and surprisingly far to participate. Students from thirty states and three countries, and ranging in age from 17 to 62, participated in programs last year. Workshop instructors included full-time faculty members, alumni and master craftsmen who come to lead workshops in both the full-time and continuing-education programs.

### New offerings

This year, in addition to the always-popular fundamental woodworking, jewelry and bookbinding courses, NBSS has expanded programs through a new partnership, a unique classroom abroad and a new bookbinding intensive.

In partnership with the Eliot School in Jamaica Plain, renowned educator and woodworker Doug Stowe from Arkansas, is coming to Boston in July to lecture and lead a box making workshop. His lecture is titled "Wisdom of the hands: why we still need a wood shop" and is followed by a weekend box-making workshop.

Last year, calligraphy instructor Maryanne Grebenstein led a study trip in France and England. This year, she created a classroom abroad program. Participants visit Paris and then live as an artist-in-residence in a chateau and study calligraphy, manuscript gilding and page layout. Accommodations and studio space are at Chateau La Napoule in the lovely town of Mandelieu.

For professionals from related fields, the opportunity to learn the basics of bookbinding from a professional bookbinder in a fully equipped bindery is compelling. A new one-month bookbinding intensive this summer provides a solid foundation for library professionals, conservators, book artists and for individuals interested in exploring bookbinding as a career. In addition, Chela Metzger, BB '93, a bookbinding graduate and conservator at Winterthur, is offering "Introduction to book structures for conservators." 📖



Chela Metzger, BB '93, a conservator at Winterthur and continuing education instructor.

## Craft artists, the U.S. economy and the move to online markets

The internet is ubiquitous. One can buy just about everything online including one-of-a-kind custom objects. Artisans and small business owners know that having a presence on the Web is important, some would say crucial, for success.

The changing economics of craft and how the internet impacts the way artisans do business is highlighted in the 2011 Craft Organization Development Association (CODA) review titled *Craft Artists, Income and the U.S. Economy*.

The review is based on research by Hart Business Research. Because many craft artisans are self employed, often work part-time and are increasingly unlikely to join guilds and craft societies, assessing the impact of craft artisans is difficult. Nevertheless, the report includes interesting data on the craft economy. *The 2009 research showed:*

### 50 MILLION AMERICANS MADE ARTISAN CRAFTS

\$20B spending on supplies

### 5 MILLION AMERICANS EARNED PART OF THEIR INCOME FROM ARTISAN CRAFTS

\$6B to \$10B income from crafts

\$3B to \$6B craft-related spending

### 30,000 TO 50,000 AMERICANS SOLD THEIR ARTISAN CRAFTS AS THEIR MAIN INCOME

\$1B to \$1.8B in sales

\$500M to \$900M in spending on supplies, real estate, employees, etc.

### The move to online marketing and sales

The report used data from Etsy.com as an example of the rise in online marketing by craft sellers. The report noted that in December 2010 Etsy.com had 267,000 sellers selling 7,362,000 handmade pieces, craft supplies, and vintage goods. Hart estimates 47% of the 267,000 sellers (123,571) are makers of artisan crafts. Etsy's gross sales were \$181M in 2009 and \$314M in 2010.

A link to the full report is on the CODA website [www.codacraft.org](http://www.codacraft.org). 📖

## Note for NBSS Alumni

CustomMade.com, a Massachusetts-based company that matches makers with customers for custom made work, is offering NBSS Alumni of full-time programs an exclusive offer to join for only \$1. Go to [www.custommade.com/secure/signup/](http://www.custommade.com/secure/signup/) paid and enter the code "1yearforcustom" in the checkout step.



Boston's first day nurseries for pre-school children were held at NBSS.

# EVOLVING WITH THE TIMES

From its beginning, North Bennet Street School has responded to the needs of the Boston community and specifically the residents of the North End by providing vocational training, prevocational training and social services.

**1880s** The **ASSOCIATED CHARITIES VOLUNTEERS** established the **NORTH END INDUSTRIAL HOME** to serve immigrants in the North End. Early programs taught women skills for employment, paid them for piece work and provided social services. Programs such as the **SATURDAY EVENING GIRLS' CLUB** grew out of reading and discussion groups held in the Boston Public Library branch at the school. Founding visionary **PAULINE AGASSIZ SHAW** developed and funded dozens of kindergarten

classes and **BOSTON'S FIRST DAY NURSERIES FOR PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN**. The kindergartens were followed by other recreational and vocational programs including libraries, reading rooms and a gymnasium. Parallel and mutually reinforcing manual skills training and social service departments emerge.

**1885** The **BOARD OF MANAGERS** raised enough funds to **PURCHASE THE BUILDING**. Pauline Agassiz Shaw (PAS) becomes president of the Board and serves until 1915. In response to neighborhood children not attending school or finishing school,

PAS contracted with the Boston Public Schools (BPS) to provide **MANUAL TRAINING CLASSES** for 300 students. By 1902, 900 students were engaged in manual arts education 5-6 hours per week. In 1891, manual arts was a requirement in the BPS. The BPS rented equipment and classrooms at NBSS until 1937.

**1902** By the early 1900s, the **RIISING RATE OF IMMIGRATION** caused the school's Board to create more systematic ways of helping newcomers settle in America. The school's role as a settlement house and the hiring of **ZELDA**

**BROWN** as head resident formalized the social service role, creating **SOCIAL SERVICE HOUSE** and much-needed efficiencies.

In **1907**, the Board hired **ALVIN E. DODD**, the first trained administrator to lead NBSS. To better serve the community and maintain both the manual training and social service programs, Dodd divided the school into departments, established afterwork programs and expanded the services provided by Social Service House including a savings society and offices for the local probation officer, the

**ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE** and a physician.

**1909** the school formalized **VOCATIONAL TRAINING** classes and started English classes for immigrants. By 1911, 28 salaried teachers and 55 volunteers served more than **1100 STUDENTS**.

George Greener was hired to run the ceramics department.

**1915** **GEORGE GREENER** became the director.

**1915 – 1983** **CADDY CAMPS** were established to enable inner city boys to spend the summer working in the country where they earned

tips, benefited from the fresh air and exercise and learned from the golfers, many of whom were professional lawyers, doctors and businessmen.

**1920** **SOCIAL SERVICE CREDIT UNION** established.

**1920s** Greener began dual programs — hand-made craft (homespun) and power machine operators — **TRADITIONAL CRAFTS AND SKILLS FOR JOBS**. Post WWI Greener introduced **PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS** including watch repair, cabinet making, house framing, printing and jewelry engraving.



Caddy camp, early 1900s



Cooking classes



The school evolved through the years in response to the ever-changing needs of the community. Early in its development, NBSS became a touchstone in the North End and Boston, contributing to the development of the city as one that cares about its neighborhoods, the education of its citizens and the vibrancy of its culture.

Technology, economics, global markets, war, prosperity, politics, immigration and changing demographics have influenced the way the school developed. Maintaining a culture of change is not easy, yet NBSS's flexible pragmatism and unwavering optimism have prevented it from becoming stagnant and encouraged it to grow and adapt. 🌱

## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

The eight current full-time programs were established at different times as needs and opportunities evolved. Other programs, such as watch repair and camera repair, ended as the need for specialized training changed.

**1947** | Carpentry, Cabinet and Furniture Making, Jewelry Making and Repair, Piano Technology

**1977** | Locksmithing and Security Technology

**1983** | Violin Making and Repair

**1986** | Preservation Carpentry and Bookbinding

George Fullerton (above, left) one of the founding instructors in the cabinet and furniture making program.

### 1915-1922 SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

developed including jobs counseling department, testing prevocational students and playschool for habit training.

**1947** ERNEST JACOBY hired.

**1947** Greener and Jacoby **INTRODUCED TRADE COURSES** which continue to be the basis of the School's curriculum: cabinet and furniture making, jewelry making and engraving, watch repair, carpentry, and piano technology.

**1960s** Programs for **NORTH END YOUTH ESTABLISHED** — after

school programs, outreach workers, sports and recreational classes.

**1964** Social Service House became the **GEORGE C. GREENER MEMORIAL BUILDING...** housing the nursery school.

**1977** **LOCKSMITHING PROGRAM BEGINS**

**1979** First **ATTEMPT AT ACCREDITATION** with National Association of Trade & Technical Schools.

**1981** Last classes of Camera Repair and Offset Printing.

**ACCREDITATION BY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRADE & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS APPROVED.**

"Industrial" dropped from school name.

**1983** Start of **VIOLIN MAKING AND REPAIR.** Focus on traditional trades and crafts.

**1985** **100TH ANNIVERSARY** of the school. The clock is installed and dedicated.

**1986** Last class of Watch Repair and Clock Repair. **BOOKBINDING AND PRESERVATION CARPENTRY** programs begin. Settlement House program moves to North End Union allowing the school to focus on professional training programs.

**1987** First **BLUE SCHOOL CATALOG** published. First graduation at Old North Church.

**1991** Workshop program established.

**1992** Tim Williams retires. **CINDY STONE** hired as the new Executive Director.

**1993** Day Care Program moves to North End Union.

**2005** **CARPENTRY AND PRESERVATION PROGRAMS MOVE** to new facilities in Arlington. Cindy Stone resigns. Walter McDonald appointed Acting Director.

**2006** **MIGUEL GÓMEZ-IBÁÑEZ** hired as Executive Director

**2010** A pilot program for manual skills training for **JOHN ELIOT SCHOOL** middle-school students begins.

**2011** Locksmithing moves to South Boston. Two rooms at NBSS become specialized classrooms for John Eliot School.

*Editors note: Read more about the history of NBSS in "North Bennet Street School: A short history 1885 - 1985" available for purchase at the NBSS gallery/store.*

## NBSS LEADERS

The remarkable tenures of NBSS directors provided the visionary leadership, tenacity and creative optimism that, combined with the equally impressive commitment and dedication of volunteer leaders, has led the school through its remarkable journey.

<b>1907 – 1915</b>	Alvin E. Dodd
<b>1915 – 1954</b>	George Greener
<b>1954 – 1976</b>	Ernest Jacoby
<b>1976 – 1992</b>	Tim Williams
<b>1992 – 2005</b>	Cindy Stone
<b>2005 – 2006</b>	Walter McDonald (acting director)
<b>2006 – present</b>	Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez



Pauline Agassiz Shaw, President of the Board 1885 - 1915



Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez, NBSS president, and Sal Perez, a student at the John Eliot School during a woodworking class in 2010.

## Tuning public school pianos

Four second-year Piano Technology students participated in a grant-funded project to tune and make basic repairs to twenty seven pianos in Boston public schools in 2011. In June, before school closed for the summer, twenty-two pianos at eleven schools were evaluated by Matthew Banks, Jennifer Holmes, Liao Liu and Ka Chun Ng. The overall condition and a list of recommended repairs were prepared for each instrument. The students' reports indicated the condition of some of the pianos had deteriorated to such an extent that tuning was not yet an option. In those cases, the evaluations also provided a recommendation for restoring the instrument to working condition. However, if a piano's condition merited tuning, the instruments were tuned.

The students continued their work this fall visiting or revisiting schools and evaluating more pianos. Matthew made a note in his report on one piano that after his work, it was ready for playing and that its condition would improve through regular use.

The students have enjoyed the project — especially the opportunity to help put pianos in the schools back into use. The school is grateful to EdVestors, a collaboration of Boston area foundations that serves as a catalyst for change in urban schools by identifying and shaping the most effective improvement initiatives, partnering with donors to invest in these efforts, and supporting education project leaders with their hands-on expertise.

Students, staff and faculty at North Bennet Street School consider it a privilege to work on behalf of the Boston Public Schools and hope to continue the work in the coming year. 🙏

## A PIANO FOR THE LILLA FREDERICK PILOT MIDDLE SCHOOL

North Bennet Street School recently donated a 1984 Kimball Viennese edition grand piano to the Lilla Frederick Pilot Middle School.



The piano installed on the auditorium stage at the Lilla Frederick school with principal DaQual Graham (wearing a suit), NBSS student Scott Ness who was there to tune the recently installed piano (behind principal Graham), music teacher David Rivera (striped sweater) and a group of very talented students.

This NBSS restored grand piano is the first acoustic piano in the nine-year old pilot school. School principal DaQual Graham understands the value of music in a school that is committed to “serving the whole child — mind, body and spirit — as well as families and the community in which the children reside.”

The piano was donated to North Bennet Street School's piano technology program by NBSS Overseers Laura and Bill Shucart, who, when informed that the piano would now brighten the days of 650 sixth- seventh- and eighth-grade students, their teachers and their community, were thrilled to learn of this new home for their treasured piano. 🙏

## Alumni Association

The Alumni Association welcomes all graduates of NBSS full-time programs to join them in strengthening the alumni network. The group plans networking events and is working with staff members on the new online

Alumni Center and other initiatives. If you are in the Boston area and would like to join the planning, contact Deb Mayerson at [dmayerson@nbss.edu](mailto:dmayerson@nbss.edu) or 617-227-0155 x750.

### New Online Alumni Center

New features being added to the recently redesigned NBSS website include a searchable directory to help alumni stay in touch, a redesigned job board and a new opt-in feature

for graduates who wish to receive commission notices from the school. The online Alumni Center will be password protected and will allow alumni to update their contact information, employee information and post notes. A discussion board allows alumni to post and respond to questions and share articles and information.

### THE NBSS SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEEDS YOU

Double your gift today!  
See The Fenoglio Alumni Challenge.



The target launch for the new Alumni Center is mid May. Alumni should watch their email for information about how to login and get started.

If you are a graduate and do not receive Alumni Association emails, it means the school does not have a current email address for you. Send an email to [jgrogoricus@nbss.edu](mailto:jgrogoricus@nbss.edu) now to ensure you don't miss the launch.

## The Fenoglio Alumni Challenge

Through the generosity of The William R. Fenoglio Foundation, North Bennet Street School alumni can double their gift.

To inspire alumni participation, any new gift to a NBSS scholarship fund received by July 31, 2012 will be matched one-to-one. A \$50 matched gift makes you a Journeyman level supporter at the \$100 level. Become a member of the Shaw Society (\$1000 level) with a gift of \$500. Any level of support is appreciated. Visit [nbss.edu/giving](http://nbss.edu/giving) and make twice the difference with a gift today!

More details will follow or contact Christine Jankowski, Director for Annual Giving at 617-227-0155 x306 or [cjankowski@nbss.edu](mailto:cjankowski@nbss.edu).

See the story on page 7 for information about the special offer from CustomMade.com for NBSS graduates. ☺

## Letters from alumni

Gordon Lagerbom, PC '01

After graduation, I took a job for a small design-build company and then I met Julie Coyne. In 1997, Julie started a non-profit education foundation



Gordon (far right) with Guatemalan friends

in Guatemala called Education and Hope, a grassroots program that provides access to education for children in need. I was so moved that I decided to take a leap of faith: I gave up my apartment, put everything in storage and took a leave from my job in order to travel to Guatemala for three months. My life was forever changed. I realized that even though I had limited resources, I was making a positive impact on the lives of the people I was helping and wanted to find a way to make this work a part of my life. My heart had found a home, both with Julie and in Guatemala.

I moved to Connecticut to be with Julie during the months she was fundraising and I started my own business, Lockwood Custom Cabinetry.

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age and took a leave from my job in order to travel to Guatemala for three months. My life was forever changed. I realized that even though I had limited resources, I was making a positive impact on the lives of the people I was helping and wanted to find a way to make this work a part of my life. My heart had found a home, both with Julie and in Guatemala.

It is a challenging time to start a new small business but being on my own gives me the flexibility to travel. Each time I go to Guatemala to begin a new project — a cement-block home for a woman caring for six grandchildren or helping restore a Spanish colonial home where Education and Hope intends to begin a trade program — I come back changed. The education I received at NBSS has been invaluable. It has allowed me to follow my heart designing and building beautiful cabinets and furniture and giving back by building for those who live in great need. For more information about Education and Hope, go to [www.educationandhope.org](http://www.educationandhope.org).

Karl Wiese, CF '99

I began my job as a woodcrafter working for the Architect of the Capitol in January 2011 when the new Senators were moving in. When a Senator and staff moves to a new office, I make bookcases and conference tables for them, as well as restoring antique desks used by previous Senators and other miscellaneous items. I was very impressed to be in the late Ted Kennedy's office when Senator Scott Brown occupied it. It is now being occupied by Senator Mitch McConnell (who I made a bank of mahogany bookcases for). When I come walking out of Union Station everyday and see the Capitol before me, I take great pride knowing that I am making furniture for the nation's leaders. I never expected to be doing this when I graduated from North Bennett Street School in 1999 but my knowledge and skills are greatly appreciated by my fellow craftsmen.

## BOOKBINDING

**Alison Kuller, BB '99** recently gave an illustrated lecture "Book Conservation: From Incunabula to e-books" at the Farnsworth Museum in Rockland, Maine. She is currently engaged in research through a grant from the Maine Arts Commission.



Martha Kearsley, BB '95

NBSS bookbinding instructor **Martha Kearsley, BB '95** and her business Strong Arm Bindery was featured on a Portland news program called '207' that aired in October.

**Valerie Fendt, BB '10** and her partner of twelve years, Alexa Bradley, married in their back yard in Brooklyn in October.



Athena Moore, BB '10

**Athena Moore, BB '10** is the Kress Conservation Fellow for 2011-2012 at the The Northeast Document Conservation Center.

The John J. Burns Library at Boston College celebrated Women's History Month in March by featuring women in the book arts. Burns Conservator, **Barbara Adams Hebard, BB '90**, invited current program students **Anna Shepard, BB '12** and **Heather Stevik,**

**BB '12** to talk about their internship at Cave Paper and to show books they had made using the paper.

**Fionnuala Gerrity, BB '11** talked about her internship at the Burns Library conservation lab and showed artist books that she illustrated and bound.

**Amanda Nelsen, BB '07** shared a link to a short film about the Rare Book School in Charlottesville, Virginia. Nelsen is the program director of the Rare Book School. Find the video on YouTube.

## CABINET AND FURNITURE

**Karen Wales, CF '94** left her position as the associate editor for *WoodenBoat* magazine and was granted a 12-month Studio Fellowship at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport, Maine. She is building a series of sea chests, developing new work that uses boatbuilding techniques in furniture-type pieces and building a lapstrake tender.

**David Ambler, CF '11** sent an update on the space he is renovating in Charlestown. A team of NBSS graduates is working with him on the space which is targeted to open this summer. The goal is to provide shop space for a mix of graduates from all programs participating in a creative and collaborative environment. Alumni interested in learning more should contact David at davidambler@comcast.net or 617-868-2339.



David Ambler's co-op space



St. John project by Peter Cabot, CF '95

**Peter Cabot, CF '95** moved his business Cabot Woodworking & Design to North Andover and recently finished the biggest project in the company's 14-year history — an 18-month teak project that culminated in a 6-week installation on the island of St. John.

**Ainsley Donaldson, CF '74** married Richard Braun on November 12, 2011. She and her husband bought a house in Melrose where she will set up a woodshop. Visitors welcome.



Nicholas Maraldo, CF '07

**Nicholas Maraldo, CF '07** wrote that he is taking a break from woodworking to join the US Navy and is currently on deployment on the USS Halsey conducting anti-piracy operations.

**Dan Faia, CF '94**, head of the cabinet and furniture making program, was a judge of the wood expo competition at the 8th Annual Vermont Fine Furniture & Woodworking Festival in September. Faia presented at the 14th annual "Working Wood in the Eighteenth Century" conference at Colonial Williamsburg. **Matt Wajda, CF '01** assisted in the presentations.

Students and alumni impressed the judges and won many "best in show" awards at the Providence Fine Furnishings & Fine Craft show in October 2011. **Sten Havumaki, CF '09** won the Best Furniture, Contemporary Piece; **Christopher Nassise, CF '05** won the Marc Harrison Award for Marketing Excellence; current cabinet- and furniture-making students **Juan Pablo Blanco, CF '12** and **Charlie Ambriano, CF '12** won Best Furniture, Traditional Body of Work and Best Traditional Student Work, respectively.

Pawcatuck, Connecticut furniture-maker **Joe Twichell, CF '80** and his work are featured in the *Stonington-Mystic Patch*.

**Kevin Mack, CF '08** is the featured woodworker in an article titled "A Brighter World: Seeing in Color with Kevin Mack" in the Winter 2012 issue of *Woodwork Magazine*. The work of **Richard Oedel, CF '05** is also included in the issue.

A story about the 1845 house and barn that **Michael Fitzpatrick, CF '06** and his wife purchased and renovated in Westborough was published in the *Community Advocate*.

A presentation by Beverly resident and NBSS graduate **Phil Lowe, CF '74** to the Danvers Historic Society was covered in *Wicked Local Danvers*.



Phil Lowe, CF '74 (right)

**Austin Campbell, CF '11**

was featured in his hometown, Cashmere, WA newspaper *The Wenatchee World*.

**JEWELRY MAKING****Lily Johannsen JM '10**

opened Lily Johannsen Designs in South Boston.

The September issue of *Boston Magazine's* fashion feature "Paint the Town" included work by **Emily Scott, JM '07**. Scott was also featured on *Boston.com* in December.



Jasper Curtis

**Katherine Curtis, JM '97**

welcomed a son Jasper on October 19, 2011. She is the Design Director at Ross-Simons in Rhode Island.

In October, **Denise Fenoglio, JM '06** and NBSS Director of Admissions Rob O'Dwyer, were guests on the Boston Neighborhood News TV show "It's All About Arts."

Jewelry instructor and NBSS graduate **Eva Martin, JM '03** is interviewed in the November/December issue of *Artscope*.

**LOCKSMITHING**

Gianna Kathleen Gibbons

**Ken Gibbons, LK '07**

welcomed his first child, a daughter Gianna Kathleen, in December.

**Michael Samra, LK '87**

wrote to *Benchmarks* urging all locksmiths to work towards attaining a low voltage "D" and/or "C" license and a Dept. of Public Safety "S" license from the State of Mass.

**PIANO TECHNOLOGY****Robin Flint, PA '01**

wrote that she is a happy part-time piano technician and part-time gallery owner, part-time administrator for the Hull/Nantasket Beach Chamber of Commerce. In November, she and her husband opened Nantaskart! in Hull MA. In addition to local artists, they show work of NBSS graduates.



Brent Purcell's daughter Natalie

**Brent Purcell, PA '08**

welcomed daughter Natalie in June 2011.

In the aftermath of hurricane Katrina, **Adam Markowitz, PT '97** selected nine pianos from his inventory and drove them to New Orleans accompanied by his dog Walter. Film directors Gillian Farrell and Ana Beinhart accompanied Markowitz and the resulting film, *9 Pianos*, premiered at the Woodstock Film Festival in September 2011.

**Jacob Burgette, PC '07** is restoring windows in the historic Wartburg Presbyterian Church in Wartburg, TN. The project was covered in the *Knoxville News Sentinel*.

**Christopher Knapp, PC '08** married Kate Hamman on October 22 at the Round Barn Farm in Waitsfield, Vermont.



Molly Margaret James

**Julie Kann James, PC '03** is happy to announce the arrival of Molly Margaret James born October 15, 2011. She joins her 3 year old brother Max and will soon be wielding a hammer just like him.

**Jackie Blombach, PC '02** spent the past two years working on a MS in Historic Preservation at UMass, Amherst. The UMass program is a unique partnership with Hancock Shaker Village. She hopes to graduate in May 2012.

A story about the Mount Lebanon Shaker Village summer internship experience of preservation carpentry students **Jared Lodge, PC '12**, **Frank DiFrancesco, PC '12** and **William Burns, PC '11** was featured in the *New England Real Estate Journal*.



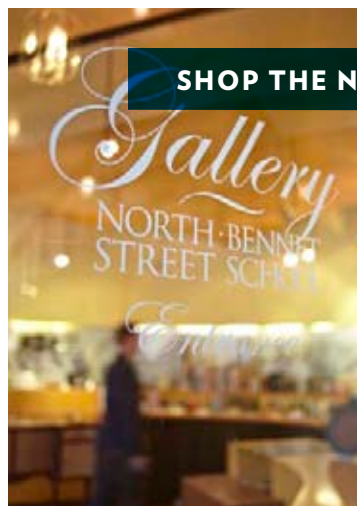
Historic millwork by Brent Hull, PC '93

**Brent Hull, PC '93** is working on a new showroom in Fort Worth, TX where he will conduct seminars on his expertise — historic interior millwork.

**VIOLIN MAKING**

After more than five years with the Carriage House division of Reuning and Son Violins in Boston, **Christopher Wood, VM '05**, has left to start a violin making and restoration business. Christopher married Jessica Garth on September 10.

**Christopher Wood, VM '05** and **Paul Crowley, VM '03** have moved into a studio space in Hyde Park, MA where they share the space with six other artists.

**SHOP THE NBSS GALLERY/STORE**

In addition to displaying and selling artisan jewelry and furniture pieces, the gallery/store sells specialized hand tools, including Starrett measuring tools, Clifton planes, Hock knives and Sorby chisels. An extensive selection of blank journals, marbled paper and NBSS logo items are also available for purchase.

## NEW STAFF

**Deb Mayerson**

Deb began her development career at The Fletcher School at Tufts University and, immediately before coming to NBSS as director of development, she worked in major gift fundraising at UMass Boston. She says of her new role at NBSS “North Bennet Street School is a magical place. Being around students and faculty who are engaged, passionate and happy in their chosen work is a joy.” She credits the generous spirit of the NBSS staff, students and faculty for engaging new donors every day. When she’s not at NBSS, she likes to bike, hike, cook, read and romp all over Concord with her three dogs.

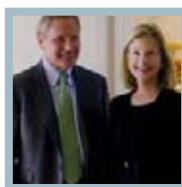
**Christine Jankowski**

Christine is the director for annual giving. Prior to NBSS, she spent six years at Nichols College as the director of the Nichols Fund. Chris received her BS from Eastern Connecticut State University and is currently earning her Master’s in Organizational Leadership at Nichols College.

## Changing of the guard

At the December 14, 2011 Annual Meeting, the school thanked and recognized outgoing Directors, Jackie Blombach, Jock Gifford and Brian Holt for their years of guidance, support and commitment to NBSS. The Board of Directors unanimously voted to re-elect Bruce Dayton (2012 Vice Chair) and elected four new Directors: Devens Hamlen, William Hettinger, Nancy Hoffman and Lewis Surdam. The Board then elected 14 people to the 2012 Committee of Overseers. Former Directors Jackie Blombach, Jock Gifford and Brian Holt joined the Overseers. McKey Berkman, Denise Fenoglio, Geraldine Kish-Perry and Richard Tucker are first-time Overseers. Natalie Albers, Barbara Adams Hebard, David Firestone, Catherine Lastavica, Ted Landsmark and Tim Williams re-joined the Committee of Overseers.

**Nancy Hoffman** | Nancy is a Vice President and Senior Advisor at Jobs for the Future, a national non-profit based in Boston. She is a consultant to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and serves on the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education.



**Devens Hamlen** | Dev began his career in finance then shifted direction to land planning - concentrating on environmental projects and conserving

hundreds of acres of land. Hamlen & Company allows him to renovate/restore buildings and add

industrial space in and around Boston. Over the past four decades, his family farm in Wayland has grown and has added a grass-fed beef operation. Dev serves on company boards, nonprofit associations and founded the Islesboro Islands Trust.

**William Hettinger, CF '07**

Bill worked in a family auction business and in real estate development, both in new construction and renovating historic houses in New

England and Key West. He and his wife built and operated a small luxury hotel in Key West. Upon selling his business, Bill fulfilled two dreams — completing the cabinet and furniture making program and undergoing training and FAA certification as an Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic, culminating in the building of his own aircraft.

**Lewis Surdam, PA '80**

Lew’s 1978 interview with Bill Garlick and acceptance into the Piano Technology program marked the beginning of a life changing experience. He remained close to the department during his 30 year tenure as Director of Harvard University’s Piano Tech Services. He noted “It has been a privilege to serve as an NBSS program advisor and member of the Board of Overseers and it will be an honor to serve on the Board of Directors during the upcoming period of growth and expansion.”



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## In the family: a donor profile

In craft, there is often an influential person whose passion fuels the interest of others. Such was Hollis Hunnewell, a talented craftsman who built parquet floors, did needlework, built furniture and chopped wood to heat his bookbinding studio in the family's home in Wellesley, Massachusetts. It was in that studio that Hollis' daughter, Lisa Hunnewell von Clemm, began her love affair with bookbinding.



Lisa moved to London fifty years ago with her husband Michael von Clemm where they raised their family. She enrolled in a part-time bookbinding course taught by the eminent Sally Lou Smith—later a mentor and great friend. In 1986, she won The Annual Bookbinding Competition sponsored by Designer Bookbinders and has organized the competition ever since. In 1994, she was made an honorary fellow of Designer Bookbinders, the foremost society devoted to the craft of fine bookbinding, and continues to support the craft in London and Boston.

The Boston Athenaeum mounted an exhibit in 1986 titled “Family Bindings: The Books of Hollis Hunnewell and Lisa Hunnewell von Clemm.” The family's bookbinding story is charmingly told in the exhibit catalogue.

Lisa is a collector of modern fine bindings and artists books. Her true passion is for the forwarding and finishing of bindings, for the vocation of bookbinding and for the vocational mission of the North Bennet Street School.

*“What I respect is the craft. Students must master the basics of how a book is constructed, which NBSS does really well. Then they can take off and do all kinds of wonderful things.”*

A longstanding and generous supporter of NBSS, Lisa currently serves as a trusted mentor and program advisor to the bookbinding program and is a veteran member of the school's governing board. “North Bennet Street School is deeply ingrained in my family. From the founding days, there has always been a member of the Hunnewell family involved with the school.” In fact, she is a distant cousin of NBSS founder Pauline Agassiz Shaw.

Lisa hopes to pass the baton to a younger member of the family. At the moment, that encouragement takes the form of an open invitation to her teenaged grandchildren for tea and books on Sundays. ☺

## Connect!

If you don't want to miss NBSS programs, events and the latest news, make sure we have your current email address and we'll add you to the list to receive the monthly electronic newsletter. **Send updates to [info@nbss.edu](mailto:info@nbss.edu).**



Video still from Boston.com

*Boston Globe* columnist Yvonne Abraham wrote about North Bennet Street School in the Sunday, February 26 issue. Links to the article and the related video are on the NBSS website.

### ENROLLMENT RECORD SET

In February, NBSS welcomed 25 new students to the full-time programs. The total enrollment is now 158 students — the highest enrollment in the history of the accredited full-time programs.

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

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