

## BUSY DAYS MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Construction at the North Street site.

Everyone at NBSS is juggling madly as construction of the new facility races on and we complete a busy academic year. Taking a moment to reflect on the amazing accomplishments of the school and its students and graduates reminds us why an investment in a new building and a renewed commitment to carry the mission of the school into the future is meaningful and important.

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### **APPROACHING DIVERSITY**

A new diversity counselor launches a diversity initiative for NBSS.

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### **ALL ALUMNI, UNDER ONE ROOF**

The opportunity for alumni to shape the future of NBSS.

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**SUMMER WORKSHOPS**

FULL DESCRIPTIONS, DATES AND  
REGISTRATION ARE ONLINE  
AT [WWW.NBSS.EDU/WORKSHOPS](http://WWW.NBSS.EDU/WORKSHOPS)

**BOOKBINDING**

Fundamentals of bookbinding I  
Fundamentals of bookbinding II  
Embellishing the cloth-case binding

**CALLIGRAPHY**

Fundamentals of Italic lettering

**CARPENTRY**

Platform framing  
Introduction to shutters  
Hanging doors and windows:  
demo and discussion

**JEWELRY MAKING**

Fundamentals of jewelry making I  
Fundamentals of jewelry making II  
Skills for jewelry making: faceted stone setting  
Skills for jewelry making: bezel setting

**WOODWORKING**

Three-month furniture-making intensive  
Fundamentals of fine woodworking  
Intermediate fine woodworking  
Fundamentals of machine woodworking  
Intermediate bowl turning: lidded vessels  
Introduction to bowl turning  
Maloof-Inspired Bench  
*Co-sponsored by the Eliot School*  
Summer Upholstery Intensive  
*Co-sponsored by the Eliot School*

**FAMILY WORKSHOPS**

Let's work together: Flying swan  
Let's work together: Wooden boat

**FINDING FELLOW  
ALUMNI**

Have you lost touch with  
your NBSS peers? Reconnect  
using the NBSS online  
searchable directory.

Login today!  
[www.nbss.edu/alumnicenter](http://www.nbss.edu/alumnicenter)

## Fine craftsmanship exhibited

Made by Hand: a celebration of  
work by North Bennet Street School  
students and alumni

Student & Alumni Exhibit

May 12 – 26, 2013

Two International Place, Boston

For the second year, the exhibit that celebrates  
fine craftsmanship and accompanies the  
Annual Evening of Traditional Craft and the  
annual student exhibit are combined into a  
two-week exhibit in downtown Boston. The  
exhibit is in the expansive public lobby of Two  
International Place in Boston and will be seen  
by hundreds of professionals who pass through  
the lobby during the work week.

The exhibit is open to the public  
Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.



Top to bottom: Georgian footstool  
by Marie Delaney, CF '13; bracelet  
by Zoe Beatty, JM '13 and books  
by Marie Oedel, BB '02.



## Make/Speak

Contemporary takes on craft by seven  
not-so-conventional craftspeople

Monday, April 29

Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Free  
7:00 pm, Tower Auditorium

7-minute presentations, discussion and a reception featuring:

Vivian Beer, furniture designer/maker; Marcelo Coelho, designer/

researcher; John Gertsen, mixologist; Nate Harrison, mixed media and sound; Kristina Madsen,  
furniture maker; Alan Burton Thompson, metals artist; and Deb Todd Wheeler, artist.

*The event is choreographed by the Commonwealth of Craft, a consortium of Massachusetts educational  
and cultural organizations including North Bennet Street School. The other organizations are Boston  
Architectural College, Fuller Craft Museum, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Museum of  
Fine Arts, Boston, New Bedford Art Museum, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, The Eliot School  
of Fine & Applied Arts, The Glass Lab at MIT, The Society of Arts and Crafts and University of  
Massachusetts, Dartmouth.*



## AN INCLUSIVE SCHOOL

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

When I first arrived at North Bennet Street School I was struck by the diversity of my fellow students in age and gender as well as social, economic, educational and geographic background. For me it was like a breath of fresh air—a group far more diverse than the one I experienced in the professional life I had left. I enjoyed hearing everyone's story of the different paths that brought us together in a welcoming, supportive and intensely focused community. But while we are a diverse community in many ways, we are not so diverse in others. The racial and ethnic mix of our students, faculty and staff is far from representative of the world in which we live.

We are not unique in this respect. As I travel to other craft schools across the country I notice very few students of color, and I find the same is true in the professional craft community as a whole. While home-based craft has deep roots in minority communities across the country, it is far less common for minorities to come to craft through professional training programs.

Though we live in a rich, multicultural world, I think it is fair to say that the neighborhoods in which most of us live are much less so. My first experience living in a community that was truly representative of this country was as a Vietnam-era draftee in the military, and it was one of the most important experiences of my life. Absent the draft, our public schools provide the only opportunity for many to experience real multiculturalism. The public schools have regulatory tools to integrate their classes, but private schools have a much more challenging task.

Among our challenges is the pressing need for additional scholarship assistance. For most of our students, and especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, cost is the most significant barrier to enrollment. But for many minority students, tuition may not be the most formidable barrier. Despite our best intentions and the personal commitment of each of us to inclusivity, we must recognize the discouraging reality of a prospective minority student who visits the school and sees neither peers nor potential mentors with whom they can identify. If we want to attract minority students and students of color, we must start with a more diverse faculty and staff. We must be the inclusive community we are encouraging others to join.

It is not a coincidence that we are wrestling with the question of diversity just as we are building a new school. Our success in reuniting the school's eight programs and remaining in the North End was the direct result of renewing our ties to the City of Boston over the past six years, through internships, partnerships and public school programs. The partnership with the John Eliot K-8 school and the diversity of the middle school students we've enjoyed having in the building underscore our desire to experience more diversity throughout the school.

*"We will make the school a community that better reflects the core values upon which the school was founded—inclusivity and opportunity for all through service to the underserved."*

These strengthened ties with the city resulted in the opportunity to acquire two city-owned buildings for our new home. It was a clear commitment by the city to the future of North Bennet Street School and we must reciprocate by renewing our commitment to the city that has been our home for 132 years. To do that, we must recognize the diversity of the community we wish to serve, with minorities and people of color a majority of its members.

The path to increased diversity will not be easy. In the short term, we are investing significant resources that may initially attract relatively few students. In the long term, we will make the school a community that better reflects the core values upon which the school was founded—inclusivity and opportunity for all through service to the underserved. We have a long standing and deserved reputation as a leader in craft education. Increasing the diversity of the students, faculty and staff and ultimately the craft field as a whole, provides an opportunity to demonstrate that leadership once more. ☺

See related article on page 4.





LANA JACKSON

### LANA JACKSON JOINS THE STAFF

Lana Jackson, an artist, arts administrator, educator and builder of community social capital, joined the NBSS staff as Diversity Counselor in October 2012. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Massachusetts College of Art and Design and a Masters of Fine Arts degree from the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. A recipient of numerous awards including the Camille Hanks Cosby Fellowship award, she studied with Anish Kapoor, Jessica Stockholder and Jacob Lawrence at the Skowhegan School of Painting in Maine.

Lana has taught in Boston public middle and high schools and at Massachusetts College of Art and Design where she taught a Public Art Foundations course. She wrote the Fine Arts Department curriculum for Boston Latin School's 2005 accreditation and has sat on many art/culture boards statewide including Art All-State for Worcester's Art Museum, *Boston Globe* Scholastic Art Award committee, Boston Plan for Excellence, Massachusetts Cultural Council's YouthReach, Boston Redevelopment Authority-Economic Development and Industrial Corporation Jobs and Community Services Community Development Block Grant Awards, Young Audiences of MA, and Safe Neighborhood Youth Fund.

Lana is a former Grants Manager and Director of Boston's Cultural Council for the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs.

## APPROACHING DIVERSITY

By LANA JACKSON, Diversity Counselor

North Bennet Street School has made strides to increase the ethnic diversity of the student body, from 8% to 13% between 2010 and 2012 and has recently embarked on a concerted effort to further improve diversity. As part of that effort, I was hired in the new, grant-funded position of Diversity Counselor in the Admissions Office.

### CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS

Massachusetts and Boston and North Bennet Street School in particular have welcomed immigrants for generations. The country as a whole is experiencing the largest immigrant growth since 1930 and Massachusetts has the seventh largest immigrant population. Between 2000 and 2010, 35.4% of new immigrants were from Latin America and the Caribbean and 28.6% were from Asia. In 2012, China became the largest source of immigrants in Massachusetts.

Boston is now a majority-minority city with Latinos (17.5%), Asians (8.9%) and Blacks or African Americans (22.4%) combined with other minorities now 53% of the city's total population. While only 8.8% of children in the Boston Public Schools are foreign-born, more than 46% are the children of immigrants. Minorities are also the fastest-growing percentage of the labor force with the growth rates for diverse groups projected to be faster than the rate for whites. As the predominantly white male baby-boomer generation retires, it is these diverse workers we must train to fill their roles.

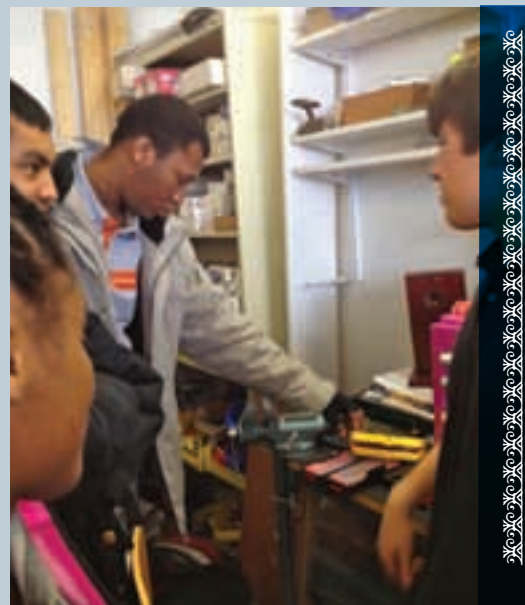
It is becoming increasingly important for higher education institutions to respond to demographic changes that affect the labor and available talent pool. To maintain NBSS's mission to train the best and the brightest, diversity recruitment will become an increasingly important goal in the coming years.

Ideally, every college, university and post secondary school wants to recruit the brightest, most talented students. But in order to attract and enroll the brightest and most talented underrepresented students, faculty and staff, schools must make changes to the way they do business. North Bennet Street School is no different.

### THE NBSS DIVERSITY PLAN

I have heard that NBSS is Boston's "best kept secret" in part because not enough people, even locally, know about the school, its North End location or its programs. As we embark on new initiatives to increase the recruitment and retention of a more diversified student population, our goal is to make the "best kept secret" a secret no more.

Our initial plan is two-fold—to increase visibility in Boston's diverse neighborhoods and to build relationships with target institutions, developing paths to NBSS for Boston Public School students.



Madison Park Career and Technical High School students visit the NBSS locksmithing program.

## INCREASING VISIBILITY

NBSS has a track record of helping disadvantaged adults enter the workforce with well-honed skills and training that makes them immediately employable in trades that serve their communities. In line with this tradition, we have launched a Workforce Development Project. Working with city agencies and community groups, the program takes the admissions staff neighborhood to neighborhood to meet with and recruit African American, Hispanic, Cape Verdean and Asian-Pacific young adults between the ages 18 and 25. The initial program focuses on recruitment for the nine-month Locksmithing and Security Technology and Carpentry programs.

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

A high percentage of NBSS students learn about the school from NBSS graduates and industry-related organizations and publications, methods based on word-of-mouth and referral marketing. Building on this established referral culture, we are targeting schools and community-based programs as “feeders” for NBSS. We have begun cultivating relationships with counselors, headmasters, principals, teachers and parents of specific schools such as Boston Public School’s Madison Park Technical Vocational High School, Boston Arts Academy and Boston English High School and we are beginning to create articulation agreements with these schools. The articulation agreements vary based on the school but may include making seats in the full-time programs available for qualified students if they meet application deadlines and providing NBSS scholarships for qualified students. Participating target schools may contribute funds to cover materials and tools for accepted students and students agree to stay engaged with the school when they graduate, helping to foster a cycle of community engagement with the school.

One example of early success is an articulation agreement with Madison Park Technical Vocational High School and applications from two Madison Park students for September admission. The relationship began when NBSS attended a citywide college fair at Madison Park in December. Madison Park students toured NBSS in March and, shortly after, two students submitted applications—Keimody Crockett for Carpentry and Mark Tinsley for Locksmithing. It’s an exciting start. ☺

## Transition to work

The NBSS locksmithing and security technology program provides comprehensive technical training in nine short months. Because the training period is relatively short, David (Dave) Troiano, the head of the program, begins thinking about the best work placement for students during the first weeks of class. Dave is well-known in the locksmithing community, both locally and nationally, for thoughtfully placing the right student with the right employer. He fields calls regularly from security companies seeking new employees, arranges interviews for students and follows up with employers. His matchmaking skills are well honed and his success rate is high. “The right match is 50% technical ability and 50% personality” notes Dave, “different types of jobs require different types of workers.”

In addition to helping students find full-time jobs after graduation, Dave also helps students find part-time jobs during school. Instruction hours in the locksmithing program are from 7:30 am – 12:30 pm making it possible for students to work in the field while they go to school. This year, almost every student is working in the industry while enrolled in the program.

Current students Josh Bradford and Joe Naffah will complete the program this spring. They recently were hired to work with Pasek Corporation after job interviews arranged by Dave. Pasek, a large local security company is a regular employer of NBSS graduates. Dave estimates that there are twelve NBSS graduates currently working for Pasek. From Pasek’s perspective, it’s a win-win situation.

Dave enjoys networking and believes being active in the industry is an important aspect of his success as a business man and instructor. He is a Board member of Yankee Security, a New England based trade organization, and he regularly attends national conventions where he works the registration table so he can get to know locksmiths around the country. You can be sure everyone he meets is told about the NBSS program and the great students available for hire. ☺



Top to bottom: Dave Troiano (standing) with locksmithing students; locksmithing students Josh Bradford and Joe Naffah.

*“Dave knows our company well. The NBSS students he recommends are well trained and great employees, they are fast to get up to speed and great additions to the Pasek team.”*

— LEWIS ALESSANDRINI, PRESIDENT OF PASEK



THE FIRST DAY OF THE 2013 BUSINESS CLASS AT THE PILOT HOUSE IN BOSTON.

## GAINING BUSINESS SAVVY

*“How do I get customers?”*

*“What should I charge for a job or piece of work?”*

*“What is the best way to market my business?”*

For the past four years, thanks to initial efforts by the alumni association, the NBSS Business Course has grown into an annual program for students and alumni.

The program is a collaboration between the school and members of the Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston (A&BC) who modified their business course for artists—The Artist’s Professional Toolbox—for NBSS.

“Each year we plan and teach this series, we enjoy it even more,” says D’lynne Plummer, Director of Professional Development at the A&BC. “The course specifically targets the unique crafts and disciplines taught at NBSS.”

“It was interesting to learn about the types of insurance and some of the high level

financial stuff,” said Bill Rainford, PC ’11 and owner of Rainford Restorations who took the course.

“The course was extremely well designed and taught, bringing very knowledgeable instructors from each discipline,” said Jonathan Hopewell, CF ’11 and current proprietor of Hopewell Woodworking. “I was woefully unprepared to start a business myself, but it gave me tools with which to begin exploring options.”

Meeting for six consecutive Friday mornings beginning in February, the course covers business plans, marketing, contracts and negotiations, pricing, accounting, insurance and legal issues. One thing that makes the course special is the panel discussion at the last session. A panel of successful alumni lead a three-hour discussion of business strategies. “If we want our craft to support us financially, then we need to know our craft and have some business savvy,”

stresses two-time panel member Walter Beebe-Center, PC ’94, owner of Essex Restorations.

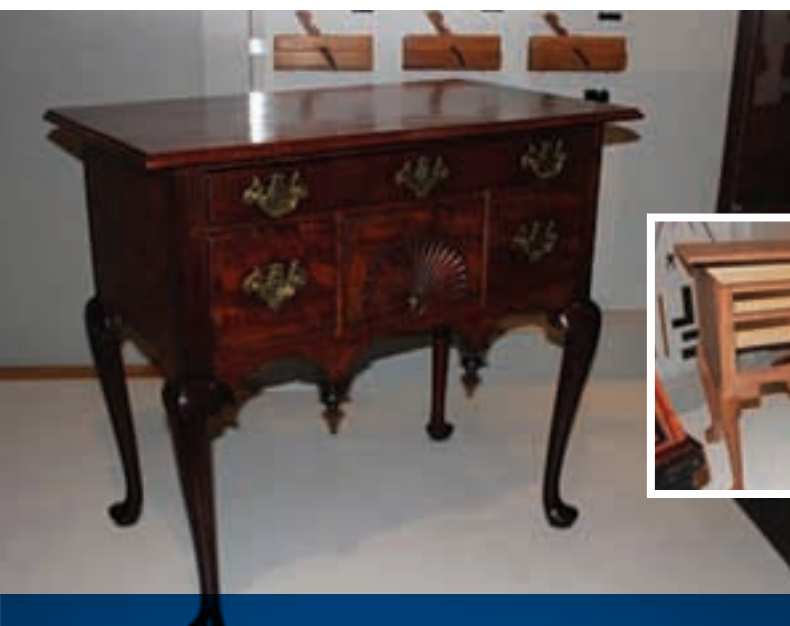
In 2013, the alumni panel included NBSS Distinguished Alumni Award winners Peter Feinmann, CA ’83, David Stanwood, PA ’79, and Brent Hull, PC ’93 as well as Ken Gilbert, BB ’10, Michael Fitzpatrick, CF ’06, Richard Oedel, CF ’05, Michael Wheeler, CF ’77, Robin Flint, PA ’01, Emily Scott, JM ’07 and Mike Samra, LK ’87. All of whom own and run successful businesses. ☺



## Bookbinders in London

It’s become a tradition. Every other year, NBSS bookbinding students go to London to visit bookbinders, libraries and absorb the history of ancient books. The 2013 trip included stops at the British Library, the Bodleian Library in Oxford and the Flora Ginn bindery. The students are shown here with Flora Ginn (wearing a white shirt.) ☺





The reproduction dressing table made by Steve Brown, CF '90 and the original. Both are on display at Winterthur.

## Massachusetts furniture is celebrated

Four Centuries of Massachusetts Furniture unites eleven institutions in an unprecedented celebration of the Bay State's remarkable furniture-making legacy. Exhibits, public programs, conferences, demonstrations and workshops are planned. The majority of events begin in September 2013 and run through the summer of 2014.

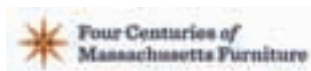
New Perspectives on Boston Furniture, 1630 – 1860, held at the Winterthur Museum in March, kicked-off the initiative. At that event, cabinet and furniture making instructor Steve Brown led a workshop titled "Building the Best Boston Furniture." On exhibit was a reproduction model, made by Steve Brown, of a 19th century dressing table.

North Bennet Street School is partnering with three Massachusetts institutions to provide demonstrations and hands-on activities to complement their Four Centuries programs. At Concord Museum's Family Day in November, NBSS artisans demonstrate techniques associated with William Munroe's tall clock cabinets and lead hands-on activities for kids. Between October and April, NBSS students, instructors and alumni visit Old Sturbridge Village to demonstrate and discuss furniture-making techniques including sand shading and decorative inlay. During the visits, they complete successive steps to make a Lombard-inspired candle stand.

Story boards and sample furniture legs made by NBSS students and instructors will be available for visitors to explore. At Massachusetts Historical Society's annual "Fenway Open our Doors" event October 14, 2013, NBSS artisans demonstrate carving and joinery techniques.

In addition to North Bennet Street School's regular woodworking and furniture-making workshops, the school is offering three workshops in early 2014 specifically designed to resonate with the Four Centuries project. A week-long workshop provides an opportunity for woodworkers to make a Lombard-inspired candle stand similar to the one being made at Old Sturbridge Village and will be held at NBSS, an adult and child workshop to make a treasure chest and a two-day letter carving workshop will be offered at Old Sturbridge Village.

Four Centuries of Massachusetts Furniture is a collaborative venture of The Colonial Society of Massachusetts, Concord Museum, Fuller Craft Museum, Historic Deerfield, Historic New England, Massachusetts Historical Society, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, North Bennet Street School, Old Sturbridge Village, Peabody Essex Museum and Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. ☺



### ALUMNI EXHIBIT ON LONG ISLAND

Twelve NBSS alumni took part in a group exhibit "Workmanship Through the Ages," hosted by the Ward Melville Heritage Organization in Stony Brook, New York on Long Island. The exhibit, ran from March 9 to April 7.

"The overall vision of the exhibit," wrote Tarah Sabbatino, Director of the Educational and Cultural Center and curator of the exhibit "is to show both the craft process and final product." In support of this theme, NBSS graduates from New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, representing furniture, preservation carpentry, jewelry, violin and piano technology provided not only finished products (a chair, a rebuilt piano, a finished violin, jewelry and more) but also exhibited drawings and tools used in their production.

"It is an exciting opportunity to not only show our finished work but to also demonstrate how much time, effort, skill and creativity go into creating each piece," said Erica Sayar, VM '09.

One of the unintended benefits of the exhibit was to reconnect alumni who live and work outside of the Boston area. "I was delighted to see NBSS alumni from so many disciplines participating" said Sayar.

The alumni exhibited are Charlie Ambriano, CF '12, Kat Beard (nee Darling), JM '07, Eric Englander, CF '95, Jonathan Ericson, PC '11, Isaac Fay, CF '13, Gus Lammers, CF '13, Tom Malenich, PT '96, Brian Horne, PC '93, Erika Sayar (nee Safran), VM '09, James Raffin, CF '06, Jeff Scotto, CF '06, Dean Squires, CF '83.



Chair by Isaac Fay, CF '13



Drawings by Frano Violich, a principal of Kennedy & Violich Architecture, the firm designing the North Street project.



*For the first time in 26 years, the entire school community will be able to convene in one space.*

## GATHERING SPACES

There are myriad ways that the new facility will contribute to the student experience and the school's interaction with the public but among the most significant are the fact that all eight programs will be reunited in spaces specifically designed for them and there will be dedicated space for informal gatherings, socializing, exhibits and public programs.

These gathering spaces are centered in the new link structure that connects the two North Street buildings into one unified facility. A two-story space above the lobby will be used for presentations and exhibits showcasing student, alumni and visiting crafts professionals and their work. The architect's drawings, shown here, illustrate the new space. 🌀



## All alumni... *Under One Roof*

Some schools have stadiums, sports teams, fraternities and quads. North Bennet Street School has none of these. What NBSS has is an incredible sense of community.

It also has one new building large enough for every student in every program to have a bench plus common space to meet, collaborate on projects, play table hockey and share a meal.

The new building also has exhibit space, dust collection and air-quality control, a room for presentations and expanded spaces for continuing education and master classes.

And that's not all... there is a huge public park just steps away, dozens of cafes within blocks, proximity to public transportation and Boston's rich art, history and music venues.

The purchase of the building, renovation and moving expenses are being managed in a typical NBSS manner... efficiently and cost-effectively. But even with careful management, it is the single largest investment in the school's history. A \$15 million dollar capital campaign is underway and approaching completion. All NBSS graduates are invited to become part of this historic moment.

### SUPPORT THE UNDER ONE ROOF CAMPAIGN

**BECAUSE ALUMNI**, more than anyone else, understand the value of having the time to learn a skill, a well-equipped shop, a dedicated bench, expert faculty members and peers to share the learning experience.

**BECAUSE ALUMNI** support demonstrates the strength of the school community. The more alumni who support the school, the more support we can generate through foundation and corporate grants.

**BECAUSE YOUR** name will be included on the Under One Roof donor recognition wall in the new building.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

**GO TO [WWW.NBSS.EDU/ALUMNISUPPORT](http://WWW.NBSS.EDU/ALUMNISUPPORT)** and make a pledge today. Give as much as you can but don't hesitate to make a small donation if that is all you can afford.

**TELL US WHY YOU SUPPORT NBSS.** Use the space on the donation form or write to [alumnisupport@nbss.edu](mailto:alumnisupport@nbss.edu), we will add your comments to the Alumni Support page.

**CALL AND WRITE** to your fellow NBSS alumni and encourage them to make a pledge.

**CONTACT THE SCHOOL AND VOLUNTEER** to make calls to alumni. Volunteer to be a part of the August move-in team and help set up the program spaces in the new location.

**ON YOUR NEXT VISIT TO BOSTON**, come see the new school—either under construction or next fall when the new site is up and running. ☺

*Your feedback, suggestions and active participation are always welcome.*

*Contact Karen Solomon, Director of Development, at [ksolomon@nbss.edu](mailto:ksolomon@nbss.edu)/617-227-0155 x750 for more information on supporting the campaign.*

## New building update

Schedule, schedule, schedule is the mantra at the weekly design and construction meetings for the North Street building. Once the two adjacent buildings became property of NBSS in August, the flurry of activity began. Design, construction and move-in by September 2013 is a very ambitious schedule and the coordination needed to complete the job on time is complex.

During the first few months, most of the work was not obvious. Design, pricing and engaging sub-contractors uses more computers, phones and email than saws and hammers. During the design and pricing stage, demolition began, stripping the spaces of the old equipment and materials. In January, more workers appeared on site, painting started, demolition continued and the site was made safe for the workers. At the time this newsletter went to press, the walls were going up, mechanical systems were being installed and the structural elements of the new central link spaces were going in. By the time this newsletter reaches readers, the spaces will begin to look like bench and machine rooms and the second and third floors of the link building will be visible to those who pass by. ☺



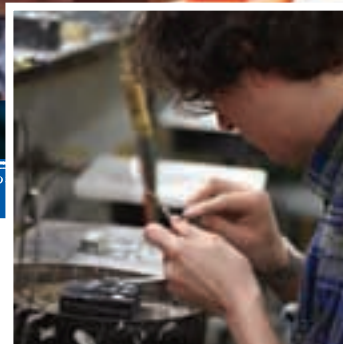
### UNDER ONE ROOF, THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

A \$15 million campaign to fund the purchase, renovation and move to the new building has generated enthusiastic support from individuals and foundations and more than \$12 million has been raised so far. Funders include the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund, a program of the state of Massachusetts, administered through a collaborative arrangement between MassDevelopment and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.





Charles Hamm, CF '13 with a bed he made for his daughter, Gabby Cooksey, BB '14 working in the NBSS bindery and Tyler St. Gelais, JM '14 in the jewelry shop.



# BORN TO MAKE

NBSS students share a love of working with their hands and a passion for fine craftsmanship.

They recognize and enjoy this shared bond despite the fact that they come to NBSS at different times in their lives and careers. For many, they come after working for several years. They may have worked in the trades and come to get more specialized training or they worked in white-collar jobs and are tired of sitting at a desk. Some come after successful professional careers as lawyers, bankers and doctors and arrive at NBSS happy with their success and ready to try something new.

Another group of students are at NBSS training for a first career. They come directly out of high school or after a liberal arts degree or time spent testing various schools and jobs. They discovered earlier than others their affinity for working with their hands and are thrilled to find a school where they can pursue their passion and train for a career.

Charles Hamm first became interested in how things got made in high school when he realized he had no idea where the coffee he loved and the cotton T-shirts he wore every day came from. He kept that curiosity while he studied philosophy and Great Books at St. John's College, Annapolis and began seriously considering a career making things when he was a college junior. After graduating from St. John's, he spent a year as an Americorps volunteer working with Habitat for Humanity. After moving to Boston and a workshop at NBSS, he made the decision to apply to the full-time cabinet and furniture making program.

Gabby Cooksey enrolled in an art college and knew quickly it was not the right fit for her. She spent her freshman year in the city library surrounded by old books or books on books. After she completed one year, she took a leave of absence and attended bookbinding workshops. She learned about NBSS and applied to the full-time bookbinding program. She was thrilled to learn she could pursue a career with the books she loves.

It was as a 12-year-old at Brimfield Antique Fair that Tyler St. Gelais first became enamored of watches when he and his father stumbled upon a crate of old pocket watches. In high school, he studied in an engineering program and was encouraged to continue his interest in jewelry and watches through an internship at a custom jewelry shop in his home town. He is grateful for the mentoring and guidance he received at high school and at the jewelry store where he continues to work when he isn't studying jewelry making and repair at NBSS. Talking to Tyler, it's clear he is pursuing something he loves.

Because of the focus on traditional four-year colleges, it is not always easy for students who aren't interested in pursuing a traditional undergraduate degree or office job to learn that they can receive training and pursue a career, doing what they love. Tyler, Gabby and Charles are three examples of students who found a path to their first career through NBSS.

Charles says he might have pursued a different direction if he didn't realize woodworking was a viable option and he imagines that if he did pursue a different career, he would become one of the students who study woodworking later in life. "It's about accountability" he says "knowing yourself through the work and discovering what kind of person you want to be." 🌀

## The Georgian footstool

Every year, students in the NBSS cabinet and furniture making program have the option to make a Georgian footstool. Students who take the footstool workshop learn to work with and understand wood in ways that differ from mortise-and-tenon or dovetail joinery. In large part, the footstool is not about joinery, it is about shaping—taking a square blank, applying a pattern, roughing it out, fairing the curve and working it to a final shape. Turned work and moldings bear some resemblance in that symmetry, proportion and light are important to the final piece, but shaping the footstool legs occurs in three dimensions making it closer to carving.



Photos courtesy of Charles Hamm, CF '13.

The NBSS Georgian footstool is unique to the furniture making program at NBSS. The workshop has been developed by instructors over the past fifteen years to pack as much into as small a project as possible. Because seating and tables need at least three, and typically four feet, why not make each one different? The Georgian footstool includes four different feet—pad, slipper, trifold and ball-and-claw. ☺

*This is an excerpt of a longer story on the NBSS website and based on the blog of cabinet and furniture making student Charles Hamm. A link to his blog is included in the online story.*



Steven Sackmann with students.



### SHARING THE LOVE OF WOODWORKING

The middle-school woodworking program, launched in 2010 with 6th-graders from the John Eliot K-8 school, has blossomed into a regular program teaching woodworking to every 6th-, 7th-, and 8th-grade student enrolled in the John Eliot K-8 public school.

The program welcomed two new woodworking teachers this year. Steven Sackmann and Jeffrey Grinarni. Steven studied cabinet and furniture at NBSS and Jeffrey graduated from the preservation carpentry program. Both are enthusiastic about the opportunity to pass their love of woodworking to the next generation.

Steven says that teaching “allows me to share the knowledge I have accumulated over the many years it took to become an expert in my profession. It also lets me be a decent human being every day.

In teaching, I feel appreciated.

Success results from being empathetic, patient and kind, not how fast I can build a \$40,000 bedroom set.” ☺



Jeffrey Grinarni with students.



## ALUMNI NEWS

## BOOKBINDING

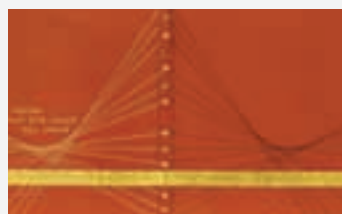
**Christina Amato, BB '07** opened an Etsy shop. Her book, *Man Bound at Sea* won Distinguished Book Award from the Miniature Book Society.

**Barbara Hebard, BB '90** wrote *Saints Preserve Us: A conservator reflects on the influence of saints in the preservation of books* in Boston College's *C21 Resources*.

**Juliayn Coleman, BB '03** has a successful practice in San Francisco, she is teaching at the San Francisco Center for the Book and she recently earned a medal for randonneuring—long distance bicycle rides.

**Judith Cohen, BB '98** recently completed an album of photos from a client's African safari trip.

**Sam Feinstein, BB '12** completed four fine-binding commissions and reports that his clients were very happy.



*French Lessons*, binding by Feinstein, BB '12

In celebration of the 75th anniversary of Dr. Seuss's *The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins*, **John Nove, BB '07** is mobilizing Pioneer Valley knitters to create 500 hats to be distributed to children and adults in need. John runs Grey Seal Bindery in South Deerfield MA.

**Erin Fletcher, BB '12** represented NBSS at the Center for Craft, Creativity & Design in NYC in February.

**Celine Lombardi, BB '11** completed a residency at the Center for Book Arts in New York City. A November exhibit featured her work.

An exhibit featuring the work of **Rebekah Lord Gardiner, BB '93** was reviewed in the *Weston Wicked Local*.

**Susan Barbarossa, BB '96** was one of a team of bookbinders who taught bookbinding to Girl Scouts for their Book Artists badges.



Barbarossa, BB '96 with Girl Scouts

**Martha Kearsley, BB '95** lent her expertise to the Fuller Craft Museum's appraisal day in September 2012.

NBSS bookbinding graduates **Stacie Dolin, BB '00** and **Amy Lapidow, BB '95** wrote a book—*Book Art Studio Handbook: Techniques and methods for binding books, creating albums, making boxes and enclosures and more*.

## CARPENTRY

**John Marsoobian, CA '87** and his partner Scott Cummings purchased and moved their business Twin Peaks Construction to a 3200 sf space in Foxboro MA.

**Christopher Bennet, CA '81** completed a bathroom, trimmed a new house, completed an 800 sf addition and is attempting to organize the longest running soccer game—48 hrs with 1500 soccer players—as a fundraiser for The Giving Circle. He has plans to build a catspaw sail boat and finish two Banjos.

**Emanuel Silva, CA '93** writes for several carpentry publications. His article "Rehabbing a Rotted Porch Stair" was in the January issue of *Professional Deckbuilder*.

## CABINET AND FURNITURE

A piece by **John Hartcorn, CF '97** is featured on the cover of *Bespoke Furniture from 101 International Artists*.

**Tommy MacDonald, CF '02** is working on season four of "Rough Cut Woodworking with Tommy Mac."

**Michael Codispoti, CF '11** is working on a reproduction of a Greene and Greene style shoe bench for the owner of CustomMade.

**Rheuben Gibson, CF '00** took his girls skiing for the first time, learned to surf and recently completed the bar, wine racks and tables for a wine bar in Lima, Ohio.

**Reid Anderson, CF '10** was named one of five Rising Star Furniture Makers at the Northwest Woodworkers Gallery in Seattle WA.



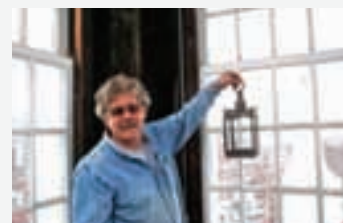
Chair by Anderson, CF '10

**Timm Schleiff, CF '12** purchased land in Lewisburg, West Virginia where he plans to build a shop.

**Karen Wales, CF '95** submitted a picture of her cat to Freekibble, a site that donates kibble to animal shelters.

**Karl Wiese, CF '99**, who works for the Architect of the Capitol as a furniture maker, recently completed some bookcases for a committee room and is working on teak planters for the Botanical Gardens.

**Daniel Phillips, CF '07** is one of four woodworkers featured in an article about Dallas Texas woodworkers in the *Dallas Morning News*.



Wheeler, CF '77 at Old North Church

**Michael Patrick Wheeler, CF '77** did a project for the Old North Church, replicating a model that shows how the bell in the tower works.

**Will Neptune, CF '81** is the latest recipient of the Cartouche Award presented by Society of American Period Furniture Makers.

The new Boston Architectural College building at 951 Boylston Street opened in December 2012. The space features the work of **Al Amigo, CF '94**, **Barbara Brown, CF '05**, **Shaun Bullens, CF '05** and **Michael Fitzpatrick, CF '06**.

**Michael Fitzpatrick, CF '06** is featured on a *Fine Homebuilding* video showing how he makes copies of historic architectural details.

**Erin Hanley, CF '07** exhibited a pear and rosewood side table at the Guild of Vermont Furniture Makers' show in Stowe VT.

**Peter Michelinie, CF '08** completed hiking the Continental Divide Trail from Mexico to Canada. He had already hiked the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail. He is one of 170 hikers in the world to finish all three trails.

**Sean Fisher, CF '94** lent his expertise to the Fuller Craft Museum's appraisal day in September 2012.

**Cliff Colley, CF '95** teaches woodworking in the vocational programs for the Plymouth school district and he's involved in a new venture with an independent film called "Dark Disciple".

## JEWELRY MAKING

**Sarah Nehama, JM '89**

participated in a trunk show at Laura Preshong Gallery in December and co-curated an exhibit on mourning jewelry for the Massachusetts Historical Society.

**Katelyn Dumont, JM '07** works at Tiffany & Co. and was included in a video working on the LA Kings Stanley Cup rings.



LA Kings Stanley Cup Rings worked on by Dumont, JM '07

**Sædis Bauer Halldórsdóttir, JM '09**

moved to Frisco, Texas. She spends the summers in Iceland and exhibited work at the winter festival and the Designers March in Reykjavik. When not in Iceland, she manages her gallery remotely.

**Laurie Berezin, JM '11** traveled to England where she saw jewelry from the past 7,000 years and the Crown Jewels.

**Eva Martin, JM '03**

completed a watery ring for the fiancée of a customer who spent a year at sea circumnavigating the world and proposed to his girl when his boat sailed in.



Ring by Martin, JM '03

Joy-Den Jewelers, owned by NBSS graduate **Chad Yesue, JM '00**, was featured in the *Community Advocate*.

**Megan Holst, JM '01**, owner of Lucky Elephant in Marblehead, Massachusetts, was featured in the Fall 2012 issue of *Marblehead Home and Style*.

**Cynthia Stocks Haddad, JM '87** lent her expertise to the Fuller Craft Museum's appraisal day in September 2012.

## LOCKSMITHING

**Michael Samra, LK '87** was re-certified in The Perfect Raceway program, which allows him to modify fire-rated doors.

**Aaron Nelson, LK '07**, has been working as manager at Thompson Company in Weymouth. He credits his training at NBSS for the job that he loves.

**Tracy Herren, LK '11** went on vacation to Mexico and Belize and swam with sharks.

## PIANO TECHNOLOGY

**James Kelly, PT '02** taught a two-part course on how grand pianos are made and how they work.

**Kevin Luke, PT '08** is the new Director of Music at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona PA.

**Boaz Kirschenbaum, PA '03** launched a new blog Vintagetonetools and a new business selling tools for piano technicians and rebuilders.

**Ed Foote, PT '76** tuned a piano for a Garth Brooks session (he's a regular) and finished work on the restoration of a Steinway piano for Vanderbilt University, part of a program he began in 1980 to restore the 52 pianos at the university (22 have gone through his shop so far).

**Chris Storch, PA '09** lent his expertise to the Fuller Craft Museum's appraisal day in September 2012.

**Michelle Stranges, PA '94** is working on a modified Steinway 1098 upright and teaching knitting classes.



King Dave knit by Stranges, PA '94

**Jim Kelly, PT '02** recently finished restringing the 55 wound strings in a Charles Stiefe Parlor Grand built in Baltimore, Md. in 1916. He understands why Stiefe pianos are sometimes called monsters.

**Daniel Honnold, PT '95** was hired as the Manager of Piano Technical Services at the University of Memphis.

**Helen Weston, PA '11** travels to Tanzania in April to sing and play piano with a jazz band and spend time with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare learning about cervical cancer prevention.

**Alexander Felides, PT '05** steadily built his practice and has been working full time as a piano technician for the last several years. He recently moved to a new house in Merrimac MA and got married on August 25, 2012.

**Christopher Storch, PA '09** provided room acoustics recommendations and sound isolation for a client's condo and assisted the client in acquiring and importing a piano from Budapest.

**Emily Townsend, PA '08** was appointed head technician at Trinity University and Our Lady of the Lake University, both in San Antonio, Texas. She spends part of the summers working as a concert technician at the Aspen Music Festival and School.

## PRESERVATION CARPENTRY

The new Boston Architectural College building at 951 Boylston Street opened in December 2012. The space features the work of **Mark Fletcher, PC '00**.

**Adam Steeneck, PC '12** began a new job with The Housewright Company and is currently working on a Livingston estate on the banks of the Hudson River.

**Kristie Connolly, PC '02**

completed a bath restoration and is working on several projects including The Spinster House of the book *Peggy at the Spinster Farm* written by Helen Winslow in 1908.



Bathroom restoration by Connolly, PC '02

**Lawrence Vellensky, PC '05**

hiked the Long Trail in Vermont from Canada to Massachusetts in October. He wrote that it snowed, it rained and it was warm enough to swim.

## VIOLIN MAKING

**Dennis McCarten, VM '06** was featured in *Rhode Island Monthly*.

**Chris White, VM '88** and **David Polstein, VM '89** won a silver medal for a jointly made viola at the 40th Annual Violin Society of America Conference.

## IN MEMORIAM

**William Eldridge, LK '06** of Swampscott, Massachusetts in June 2012.

**Hester Lox, PA '80** of Oakland, California on April 7, 2012.

## ON THE HORIZON



### **VIOLIN SHOWCASE** **MAY 23, 6:00 – 8:00 PM**

Visit the North Bennet Street School violin making and repair program, learn about violin and other stringed-instrument making, meet violin making students and professionals, play hand-crafted instruments and, for those who are interested, discuss purchasing an instrument. [www.nbss.edu/violinshowcase](http://www.nbss.edu/violinshowcase)

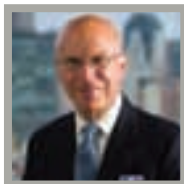


### **CLASSROOM ABROAD** **CHATEAU DE LA NAPOULE** **MANDELIEU, FRANCE** **SEPT. 25 – OCT. 6, 2013**

Live as an artist-in-residence for a week at Château de La Napoule near Nice. Using medieval and Renaissance manuscripts as inspiration, participants learn calligraphy, gilding and page design as they create their own version of an illuminated manuscript page. [www.nbss.edu/france](http://www.nbss.edu/france)

## Changing of the guard

At the December 12, 2012 Annual Meeting, the school thanked and recognized outgoing Directors Steve Friedlaender and Amos Hostetter for their years of guidance, support and commitment to NBSS. The Board of Directors unanimously voted to elect two new Directors: Carl Ferenbach and John F. Gifford. The Board then elected eight to the Committee of Overseers: Dr. David L. Bloom, Louise Burgin, Richard W. Cheek, C. Forbes Dewey, Jr., Steve Friedlaender, Amos Hostetter, Edward Howland and Colin Urbina, BB '11.

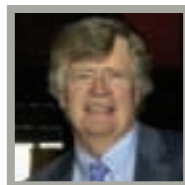


**Carl Ferenbach** | Carl is a co-founder and Advisory Director of Berkshire Partners LLC, a private equity investment firm based in Boston. He also is Chairman & co-founder of

the High Meadows Foundation and High Meadows Fund. Carl serves on the boards of Princeton University, Princeton Investment Company, Princeton Environmental Institute, Centre for Enterprise, Markets & Ethics at Oxford University, Vermont Law School Environmental Advisory Board and Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. He and his wife, Judy BB '97, own High Meadows Associates, Inc. which operates farms in southern Vermont producing maple, wood and grass based products.

**John F. Gifford, JM '97, CF '01** | Jock is an architect, jeweler and furniture maker. He founded the nationally recognized residential design and construction firm Design Associates in Cambridge and Nantucket.

A graduate of both the Jewelry Making and Cabinet & Furniture Making programs, Jock was named by the Alumni Council as its 2009 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. He previously served as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors and continues to teach classes at the school as a volunteer. ☺



## NBSS on NBC Nightly News

NBSS was featured on NBC Nightly News on October 25. NBC reporter Chris Jansing interviews students and NBSS president Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez.



## Shop online

Browse handcrafted items by NBSS trained artisans, buy high-quality tools and enhance your wardrobe with NBSS hats, T-shirts and aprons.

The new NBSS online store significantly enhances the school's ability to showcase student and alumni work. Start browsing and shopping now... and don't forget to bookmark the store and check back often. New items are added regularly.

If you are an NBSS-affiliated artisan and would like to sell work through the store, write to Ken Craggs at [gallery@nbss.edu](mailto:gallery@nbss.edu) for details.





PETER FEINMANN, CA '83

*“NBSS’s mission resonates strongly with me and I want to support the school as it trains more talented craftspeople in Massachusetts and beyond.”*

## DONOR PROFILE

Peter Feinmann created his career path by artfully combining a proclivity and a passion. North Bennet Street School provided the critical link.

Peter says his long-time connection to the school “Is because NBSS’s mission resonates strongly with me and I want to support the school as it trains more talented craftspeople in Massachusetts and beyond.”

A self proclaimed organizer in the neighborhood where he grew up, he attended Trinity College and developed a love for architecture and the ability to think critically. A serendipitous request from a friend to substitute for an injured construction worker introduced Peter to the industry. To progress in the field, he realized he needed to master the craft of carpentry. North Bennet Street School, with its accelerated and targeted curriculum, provided the perfect solution. After graduating in 1983, Peter became a project manager for a condominium developer in the Lexington area and discovered his true calling—that of construction management. He left the developer in 1987 when he founded Feinmann, Inc., a residential design/build firm.

In honor of his accomplishments, Peter received the NBSS Distinguished Alumni Award in 2008. He maintains his bond with NBSS and has advocated for the school since his days at the bench, serving on the Committee of Overseers, as Annual Evening of Craft Chair, and currently as a program advisor and member of the Board.

Peter is excited about the new building and says “It is fun to watch the school’s vision come to fruition... a home for all programs and a prominent place in Boston’s history for years to come.” ☺

### SUSTAINING EXCELLENCE THROUGH THE ANNUAL FUND

Donations to the NBSS Annual Fund help sustain the high-quality craft education that the school has provided for more than 132 years. Donations directly support the vital needs of the school’s day-to-day operations including power to run machines, lights to illuminate busy hands, materials to build and scholarships to ensure that all qualified student have the opportunity to pursue an NBSS education. Give to the Annual Fund and know that your gift makes a difference for each and every student—every day.

Consider making a multi-year pledge to the Annual Fund to ensure NBSS continues to thrive in its new home.

Director for Annual Giving, Christine Jankowski, would be happy to help set up your gift agreement. Contact Christine at [cjankowski@nbss.edu](mailto:cjankowski@nbss.edu) / 617-227-0155 x306.

Thank you to those who have and continue to make a difference. If you haven’t made your gift yet, visit [nbss.edu/giving](http://nbss.edu/giving) and make a gift today!



Gifts to the Annual Fund keep students smiling.

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

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

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[massculturalcouncil.org](http://massculturalcouncil.org)

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