

DEFINING QUALITY

A violin making student measures the curve of her instrument.

When we make something—a piece of furniture, a necklace, a violin, a sugar shack or any hand-crafted project—we think about quality. Does the work represent accomplishment? Does it represent skill? Is it expressive? Does it make you stop and think? We ask those same questions of our educational programs as we work to create a culture of individual achievement and prepare students to work at the highest level in their chosen field.

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A SWEET STORY

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CREATING A CULTURE OF SUCCESS

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and Career Services, builds programs to
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NBSS SPECIAL EDITION TOOL

Exhibitions are costly and, as a non-profit, we have to raise the funds to cover the installation, travel expenses and insurance. To help underwrite the costs of *Quality is Contagious*, Economaki designed a limited edition TS-1.5 Try Square. The tool is 6.5" long, just under 4" in height and features a stainless steel blade with an 8:1 internal cutout for laying out dovetails. The innovative handle design interjects a fun combination of colors giving it a unique voice in the tool world. Individuals who contribute \$250 or more, receive the NBSS square, sure to be cherished for generations to come. For contributions of more than \$400, supporters receive both the tool and a copy of the exhibit book.

QUALITY IS CONTAGIOUS: JOHN ECONOMAKI AND BRIDGE CITY TOOL WORKS

March 5 – May 15, 2015
Windgate Gallery
North Bennet Street School

Reception with John Economaki
6:00 – 8:00 pm
Thursday, May 14, 2015

To Hear the Music

A documentary film about making a product that lasts



Charles Brenton Fisk worked with Robert Oppenheimer as an 18-yr-old whiz kid on the Manhattan Project, building the A-bomb, before turning from the physics of destruction to music, his first love, and building tracker action pipe organs out of Gloucester, Massachusetts. He died in 1983, but his uniquely collaborative shop continues to build "the king of instruments" in much the same way they were built in the time of Bach. *To Hear the Music*, an independent hour-long documentary, follows the development of a single pipe organ, CB Fisk's Opus 139 (pictured above), from initial design meetings (with Harvard's late beloved Rev. Peter J. Gomes), through every aspect of building and testing, to a celebratory Easter inaugural in Memorial Church, Harvard University, Fisk's alma mater.

But the documentary also speaks about much more than mere process. It addresses the creation of a product built to last in today's world of disposability. It tells the story of a model workplace, where every craftsman's voice is heard. It explores the Organ Wars of the early 20th century that pitted electro-pneumatic advocates against the pure mechanical tracker connection between the finger's touch and the speech of the pipe. It examines the perfect marriage of craft and art that the man Fisk valued above all else. And then, not least of all, there is the music itself, which provides glorious accompaniment as we observe a sum of parts coming to life in *To Hear The Music*.

Film screening with an introduction and discussion with director and producer Dennis Lanson.
Wednesday May 27, 2015, 6:00 pm, Windgate Gallery, Details and RSVP at nbss.edu/fisk.
This event is funded by a grant from The Felicia Fund.

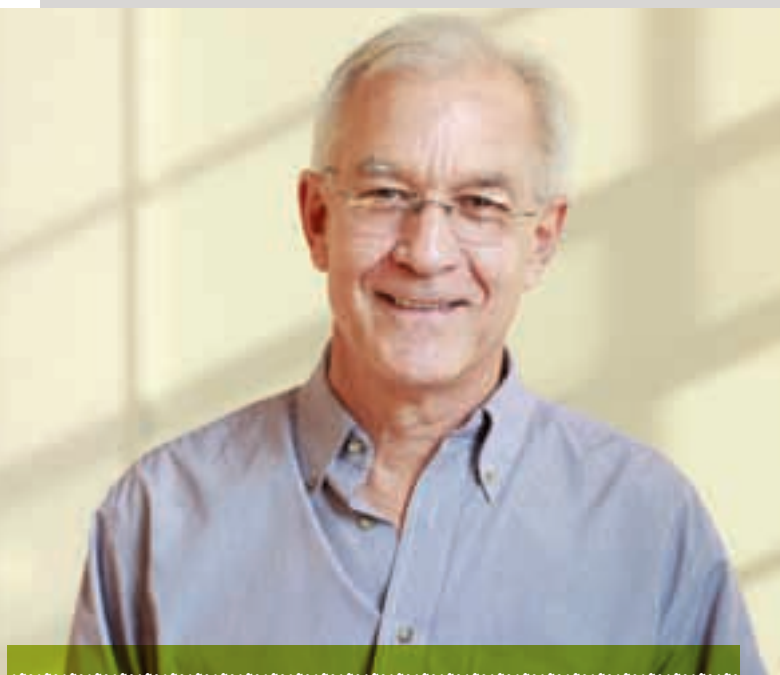


Bridge City Tool Works exhibit

John Economaki established Bridge City Tool Works in 1983. Thirty-two years later, Bridge City Tool Works is recognized worldwide as the source of exquisite tools for hand woodworking. His work has been described by collectors as "tools with a soul."

"I am a huge fan of North Bennet Street School and can't think of a more relevant venue on the East Coast for the exhibit—it is really quite an honor." JOHN ECONOMAKI

The title of the exhibit is *Quality is Contagious: John Economaki and Bridge City Tool Works*. The exhibit was curated by Nicole Nathan, curator of collections at the Museum of Contemporary Craft, in Portland, Oregon, in collaboration with Economaki. The exhibit was first shown at the Museum of Contemporary Craft. It then traveled to the Bellevue Arts Museum in Seattle before coming to NBSS in March.



REFLECTION AND RENEWAL

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

Last Fall I was surprised by a phone call letting me know that I was among twelve leaders of non-profit institutions in Boston awarded a 2015 fellowship from the Barr Foundation. The Barr Fellowship includes a three-month sabbatical beginning in July, the opportunity for global travel, and semi-annual two-day leadership retreats with other Barr Fellows over a period of the next three years.

The Fellows' organizations, including North Bennet Street School, receive an associated grant to provide financial support to ensure effective interim management during the sabbatical. The grant includes professional development assistance for senior staff and emerging leaders, as well as funding for programs to promote organizational development.

The Barr Foundation has named a class of twelve Fellows five times since 2005, making a long-term commitment to each Fellow and facilitating their connections with one another. A key goal of the fellowship program is to create a network of effective leaders and effective institutions to promote interaction and close cooperation among the various non-profit organizations in Boston that are committed to developing innovative and transformational programs and promote positive change.

"Creative Disruption" is the title of a study undertaken by five philanthropic foundations, including the Barr Foundation, that provide sabbatical programs across the country for non-profit executive directors, taking them away from their organizations for a period of rest, renewal and personal and professional development. The study found that while the sabbatical may be disruptive to the work and the life routines of the leader, and to the management patterns of the organization, the evidence demonstrates that this disturbance leads to new perspectives on the part of the leader, the board and the staff with regard to organizational vision, shared leadership and skill development.

Creative disruption could also describe the past four years of North Bennet Street School, as we anticipated and then moved forward with a plan to leave the building that was our home for more than 130 years and reconvene in a new facility that brought all of the school's programs together. The new building was designed to encourage collaboration, interaction and the integration of all the various parts that make up North Bennet Street School. So far, we have taken advantage of only a fraction of the opportunities for working together and building new programs and interconnections that will strengthen the school.

A key goal of the fellowship program is to create a network of effective leaders and effective institutions to promote interaction and close cooperation among the various non-profit organizations in Boston...

The upcoming sabbatical is an opportunity for me and for the entire school community to discover new possibilities, envision new programs and new ways of working together, and to continue to move forward with purpose and energy. North Bennet Street School is an institution that has thrived because of its ability to see and respond to new possibilities and new opportunities. Creative disruption is nothing new here—it is what has made North Bennet Street School the unique institution it is today.



Lana Jackson (left) with students. PB&J, a sticky success.

CREATING A CULTURE OF SUCCESS

How can NBSS intentionally and positively create a culture that nurtures employability and partnerships and create students and graduates who serve as ambassadors for the school? Lana Jackson, in a new position as Director of Student Life and Career Services, is working with staff, faculty and students to find the best way to do so.

CAREER PREPARATION

When Lana Jackson transitioned to Director of Student Life and Career Services under the umbrella of Admissions and Student Success, she set goals to build community among the programs and increase the employability of NBSS graduates—employability defined as the capacity of NBSS graduates to get a job, perform well in their job and have the skills to move between jobs as needed.

Lana's first step was to organize an all-school career weekend April 10–11 to bring business owners, union representatives, trade association

and guild representation, and small employers together with graduating students and alumni. Ancillary services including the Small Business Administration, PayAnyWhere, CustomMade, and Etsy representatives were also invited.

In preparation for career weekend, Lana held workshops and counseled students on business etiquette as well as writing resumes, cover letters and thank you letters. These career-skill sessions and the optional six-week business class run by the Arts and Business Council of Greater Boston were folded in to an intentional progression of jobs-skill-building that culminated with the career weekend.

A HOLISTIC CULTURE

In addition to job skills and in an effort to facilitate the physical, mental and spiritual health of each student, Lana has experimented with offering yoga sessions, and poetry and book clubs, as well as formalizing a partnership with the local North End Waterfront Health Center's Behavior Science Department. She ran a popular weekly make-it-yourself peanut butter and jelly sandwich lunch during the winter months

that was particularly enjoyed. Students were grateful to stay out of the cold, get back to their projects quickly and for the opportunity to get to know students from other programs.

The overarching goal for Student Life and Career Services is to support students and enhance their ability to succeed both during school and after graduation. Happy and successful students/graduates tend to be loyal, responsive and possess a strong attachment to their alma mater that can last a lifetime, enriching alumni lives and the school community. Many NBSS alumni hire other NBSS graduates continuing the cycle of mentoring and support.

During graduation, NBSS president Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez addresses graduates as the “newest alumni” and reminds them that they represent the best of what we have to offer. Alumni become ambassadors and contribute to the word of mouth marketing that is one of the best ways prospective students learn about the school. In complementing the education experience in the programs with employment skills, the goal is to empower students to become successful in their careers and natural ambassadors of the school, enriching and sustaining the North Bennet Street School community at large. ☺

Lana Jackson can be reached at ljackson@nbss.edu / 617-227-0155 x112.

“By beginning to plan for employment at the beginning of the program, students are better able to transition quickly from school to meaningful employment”

A shortage of bench jewelers

A generation ago, every town of any size had a jewelry store with window displays filled with rings, necklaces and more made with precious metals and gems. People would visit their neighborhood store to buy engagement rings and gifts of all kinds. In addition to purchasing jewelry, customers would bring jewelry to be appraised, cleaned, repaired and customized.

Some stores would design and manufacture custom pieces as well as sell and repair work. Most stores had one or more bench jewelers, sometimes the owner and often another individual specially trained to work with precious metals and gems.

Beginning in the 1980s, jewelry manufacturing began moving overseas and many retail shops stopped offering bench jewelry services. Individuals who might have pursued a career as a bench jeweler looked elsewhere for work. As a result, the jewelry industry lost a generation of jewelry makers.

Today, with the rise of interest in hand-crafted, local products, the desire for bespoke jewelry has risen dramatically. At the same time, the 'Boomer-era' generation of bench jewelers are retiring and overseas manufacturing is not as cost-efficient as it once was. These changes have caused a significant need for new bench jewelers in the U.S.

There are several ways to train to be a bench jeweler but the more professional, hands-on training received, the easier it is to move immediately into good-paying bench jewelry positions.

North Bennet Street School's jewelry program is one of the only full-time, professional bench jewelry training programs in the country. Despite its excellent reputation and the shortage of bench jewelers, the NBSS jewelry making and repair program is under-enrolled. The school is expanding marketing efforts and working to find the best students for the program. In addition, planning is underway for a new 18-week after-school jewelry program for teens.

NBSS alumni and friends can help. Spread the word about the program and contact the school with suggestions on how best to help the jewelry program continue to thrive in the changing jewelry industry.

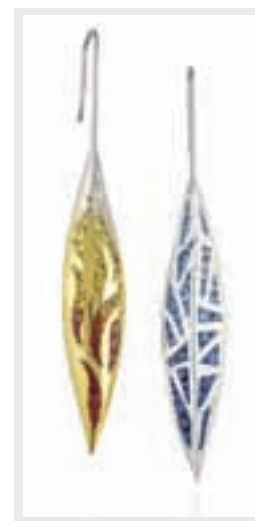


NBSS JEWELRY MAKING STUDENTS WORK WITH SILVER, GOLD, PLATINUM AND PALLADIUM.

Student & Alumni Exhibit May 18–29, 2015

Windgate Gallery, North Bennet Street School, 150 North Street, Boston
Exhibitor reception, 5:00 – 8:00 pm, Thursday, May 28, 2015

The annual showcase of work done by students and alumni is being held at the new facility for the first time. To complement the exhibit, tours of the exhibit and program spaces are being offered to groups who contact the school in advance. Interested groups should contact Christine Jankowski at cjankowski@nbss.edu / 617-227-0155x170. Visit nbss.edu/exhibit2015 for exhibit hours and more information.



Earrings by Eva Martin, JM '03

SECURITY JOBS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Locks have existed for thousands of years. The first key lock was Egyptian and made of wood 4,000 years ago. Brass and iron padlocks were popularized by the Romans and Chinese. Modern locks vary from simple tumbler locks, not unlike ancient padlocks, to complicated electronic access systems.



North Bennet Street School (NBSS) has been training locksmiths and security experts since 1976. The program has evolved and most students graduate and move immediately into good jobs.

Increasingly, security has become a critical priority for governments and for public and private corporations and institutions as well as for individuals.

As locksmithing and security needs have evolved and the technology has become more complex, the jobs available to trained professionals have also expanded. The public mostly know locksmiths as the professionals who come to open your house or car when you are locked out.



Shaun, Ian and Nick days before graduating in January.

While these first-responders are important, they are only a small percentage of individuals who work in locksmithing and security professions. Other jobs include access security, surveillance, master keying and safe technician. Locksmiths are self-employed, work for large security companies and for private and public corporations and institutions. Most universities, hospitals, government buildings and other large facilities employ locksmiths.

IAN worked in retail for seven years before enrolling in the locksmithing and security technology program at North Bennet Street School. He began working part time at Boston Lock & Safe in Brighton while in school and began working in the shop full-time after he graduated in January. Boston Lock & Safe is not only the oldest locksmith business in Massachusetts, it's the oldest in the country, established in 1790. While many locksmiths working at Boston Lock & Safe are on the road, Ian prefers to work in the retail shop, interacting with customers and taking orders for individuals in addition to commercial businesses. The combination of customer service experience and technical skills make Ian a great fit for the shop position.

SHAUN graduated in January and is continuing his training while working with Pasek, a security company in Boston. Shaun works alongside more experienced locksmiths as he studies for his Class D electricians license which is needed to install electronic access control systems. Pasek is also not a newcomer to the security business. The company was established in 1876 and has evolved as technology changed.

NICK also graduated with a job in hand. He began working at Securadyne Systems while a student and is excited by the opportunity to expand his experience working with a growing national business. He plans to specialize in electrified hardware access control, burglar and surveillance systems. His long term goal is to give back to the profession through teaching and participating in professional associations.

It is not unusual for students who complete the NBSS locksmithing and security technology program to graduate and begin meaningful jobs. The employment rate was 83% for 2013 graduates and national job growth is healthy—growth of 3–7% in the next ten years for locksmiths and 15–21% for security installers is predicted by the US Department of Labor American Job Center Network (onetonline.org). ☺



NBSS violin program participates in MIT study

MIT acousticians and fluid dynamicists, along with violin makers at NBSS, have analyzed measurements from hundreds of Cremonese-era violins, identifying key design features that contribute to these particular violins' acoustic power, or fullness of sound.

"Studying historic instruments and making violins for decades improves a maker's understanding of how to create the best acoustic properties. Science and precise measurements add to our understanding and also influence our practice." ROMAN BARNAS, HEAD OF THE NBSS VIOLIN DEPARTMENT

The researchers found that the shape and length of 'f-holes' and the thickness of a violin's back plate are the two features that most affect an instrument's acoustic power. The research was picked up by national and international media including NBC News, *Christian Science Monitor*, *New York Times*, *The Daily Telegraph* and more.

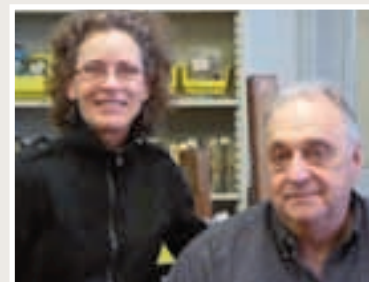
For more on the research, visit newsoffice.mit.edu/2015/violin-acoustic-power-0210.



DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Brittany Molloy-Kenney, Development Operations and Alumni Relations Manager (left), was selected to be part of the 2015 BNY Mellon Capacity Building Program which identifies rising stars working in development with strong leadership potential and provides them with opportunities to engage in personal and professional development. Christine Jankowski (right), Director of Development, was elected to the Fuller Craft Museum Board of Directors.

Barbara Baker and Dave Troiano



HONORING DAVE TROIANO

NBSS alumni, students, faculty and staff celebrated with Dave Troiano who retired at the end of January after 15 years as head of the locksmithing department.

Dave's dedication to the school, the students and the locksmithing field are extraordinary and his daily presence at the school will be missed.

NBSS is pleased to welcome Barbara Baker as the new head of the locksmithing department. Barbara is a 2004 graduate of the locksmithing program. Upon graduation, she began working at Action Lock & Key with 1987 NBSS graduate Michael Samra. She continues to work part-time as a commercial hardware locksmith specializing in the installation and service of a wide variety of products as well as residential projects and shop bench work. In the growing field of powered access control, Barbara's work as an electronic hardware technician—she holds an Electronic Engineering Technology Certificate—provides added value in the NBSS Locksmithing & Security Technology classroom. She is a board member of Massachusetts Locksmiths Association and belongs to the Associated Locksmiths of America. Barbara enjoys teaching and mentoring students in this exciting and ever-evolving field.

A SUMMER OF SKILL BUILDING

With its well-equipped machine and bench rooms and climate control throughout, the new NBSS facility is one of the nicest places to spend summer hours learning a new skill. The summer 2015 schedule includes all the fundamental courses as well as dozens of new and special workshops including piano technology workshops, guitar making, bowmaking, wood carving, historic bindings and more.



Graduates of NBSS full-time programs and new students receive a 15% discount on most workshops. Review the list of highlights below, consult the online calendar for fundamental workshops and sign up today!

...and please spread the word to your friends, talented cousins and hand-skill loving neighbors.

Find all courses and details online at nbss.edu/workshops.

SUMMER 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

MAY

BOX IT UP! PRESENTATION BOXES FOR JEWELERS with Amy Lapidow

INTRODUCTION TO SHUTTERS with Bill Rainford

JUNE

LEATHER SATCHEL FOR ETHIOPIAN BOOKS with Bill Hanscom



CARVING A BALL AND CLAW FOOT with Dan Faia

THE SECRETS OF SHELLAC WORKSHOP with Brad Wolcott

HISTORIC TIMBER FRAMING with Matt Morrison

JULY



INTRODUCTION TO BLIND AND GOLD TOOLING ON LEATHER with Samuel Feinstein

TRADITIONAL WOODCARVING with Dan Faia

INTRODUCTION TO VENEER with Brad Wolcott

ETCHING WORKSHOP with Leslie Hartwell

BUILD A GUITAR with Steve Spodaryk

INTRODUCTION TO BOWMAKING with David Hawthorne

ADVANCED BOWMAKING with David Hawthorne

AUGUST

MORE HISTORICAL BINDINGS IN PAPER Bill Hanscom

FINE FINISHING WORKSHOP with John LaGattuta

WINDOW SASH WORKSHOP with Bill Rainford

MASTER CLASS IN PIANO TECHNOLOGY: TONE TOUCH AND THE PIANIST with John Foy, Boaz Kirschenbaum and David Stanwood



KIDS & TEENS



INTRODUCTION TO WOODWORKING, YOUTH PROGRAM (6TH - 8TH GRADE) with Chris Kearney

FAMILY WORKSHOP: BUILD A TOOLBOX with Ryan Messier

TEEN WEEK IN THE JEWELRY WORKSHOP with Leslie Hartwell

CALLIGRAPHY INTRO FOR TEENS with Maryanne Grebenstein

YOUTH BOOKBINDING WORKSHOP; PAPER, FOLDING AND BASIC BOOKS (AGES 9-11) with Caitlyn Thompson

YOUTH BOOKBINDING WORKSHOP; EXPOSED SEWING, HARD COVERS AND ARTIST BOOKS (AGES 12 - 14) with Caitlyn Thompson

BUILD A GUITAR with Steve Spodaryk



CARPENTRY STUDENTS WORKING
ON THE SUGAR SHACK.

A sweet story

It sometimes happens that the stars align and the everyday is elevated. The alignment happened recently for NBSS director of financial aid Jamie Dergay and the combined influences and efforts of the continuing education, preservation carpentry and carpentry departments.

The back story began 6 or 7 years ago when Jamie started volunteering at a maple farm. Last year he started collecting maple sap from his property and other trees in the neighborhood and boiling it outside in his yard. He collected enough sap to make 11 gallons. Jamie has long had an interest in New England's traditional agriculture practice and considers himself something of a homesteader, managing a large kitchen garden in addition to what has become a growing maple sugar pursuit.

Last summer, to enhance his woodworking skills, Jamie decided to take the one-week timber framing workshop run through the continuing education department. Preservation carpentry instructor Rich Friberg suggested to Jamie that the structure the class was going to build could be designed as a sugar shack for Jamie's growing

syrup business. Jamie jumped at the idea, participated in the class and bought the timber frame structure from the school. After family and friends raised the timber frame on Jamie's property in Chelmsford (under Rich Friberg's expert guidance), Jamie engaged the NBSS carpentry students to finish the structure, installing windows, doors and building a cupola and attached wood shed. The sugar shack is a traditional design and is fitted out with a traditional wood-fired evaporator bought from an artisan welder in Maine. Sweet features extend beyond the syrup to include stained and leaded glass windows Jamie found at a salvage yard, a maple leaf design on the front and a bright red door.

Brian Vogt, head of the carpentry project, says "Doing work on site is an integral part of the NBSS carpentry program learning experience. There are myriad intangible conditions and situations that can only be experienced on site (including extreme cold on this job), learning correct tolerances for the work, working at a scale that's impossible in the shop and even basic things like the safe use of ladders happens naturally on site."

If you have a hobby (or growing home business) that would benefit from a shed or shack, submit a request through the NBSS carpentry program. Details online at nbss.edu/dream. 🍁



CARPENTRY SKILLS LEARNED WORKING ON THE SUGAR SHACK

The following core carpentry skills were learned and practiced by the carpentry students while working on the sugar shack.

- Window installation
- Door installation
- Jacking up and leveling the frame
- Basic sheathing
- Exterior trim and siding
- Installing collar ties
- Hand-nailing pine board floors
- Basics of job site set-up
- Set up and take down of staging
- Working with safety harnesses
- Safe use of ladders
- Design and construction (of the cupola)

Thanks to the Angels

While tuition is the largest source of income, NBSS thrives in large part because of support from individuals, corporations and foundations. Grants from foundations and gifts from corporations and individuals are sometimes provided to meet very specific needs. In the past year, NBSS was enriched by the following grants:

DAVID GREENEWALT CHARITABLE TRUST
\$5,000 for audio-visual equipment for remote access from presentation site and video recording of instruction.

ONEIDA AIR SYSTEMS
\$1,000 to a Cabinet and Furniture Making graduate who has demonstrated the ability and skills to make a career as a furniture maker and is overcoming significant financial challenges.

FELICIA FUND
\$3,000 for Windgate Talks, the NBSS public lecture series.

MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION
\$20,792 for a jointer, planer and SawStop table saw for the Carpentry department and grinders for Piano Technology, Carpentry, Preservation Carpentry and Cabinet and Furniture Making departments.

RUBY W. AND LAVON P. LINN FOUNDATION
\$500,000 to establish an NBSS Veterans Endowment Program.

CORENET GLOBAL, INC.
\$1,500 towards a high definition projector for public spaces.

Annual Fund update

Support current and future students

Gifts to the annual fund provide the school with current-use operating support which is immediately put to work supporting new program opportunities, providing emergency student assistance, funding academic and organizational improvements and much more.

PARTICIPATION MATTERS

High participation in fundraising is powerful proof of an institution's significance and importance to the community it serves—and is the cornerstone to fundraising success. This year, North Bennet Street School is pleased to report that all members of the board of directors, faculty and staff have committed to the 2015 Annual Fund. This means we have 100% participation from those who work most closely with the school and students and understand first-hand what an impact their gifts make!

Join them in showing your appreciation and support the school today. Size does not matter... each gift makes a difference.

DONATE TODAY!

- ✕ Use the reply envelope in this issue of *Benchmarks*
- ✕ Donate online at nbss.edu/giving
- ✕ Call the development office: **617-227-0155 x170**
- ✕ Email annualfund@nbss.edu

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

If you are considering or have already designated a gift to North Bennet Street School in your estate plan, we invite you to inform us so that we can work with you to ensure your gift supports the school as you intend.

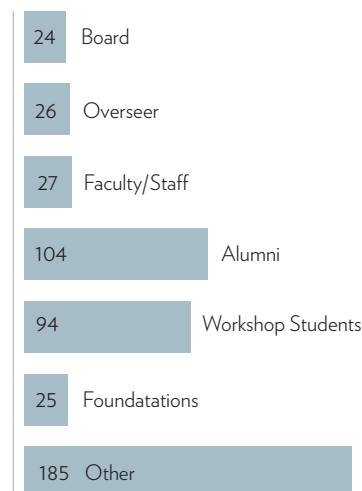
THANK YOU!

Christine Jankowski, Director of Development

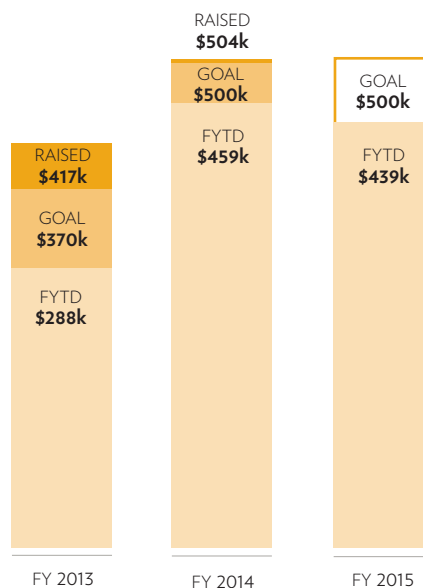
Contributions by the numbers

Both the total amount raised and the number of individuals who contribute are important indicators of strong support for the school. *Help us reach our FY15 goal, donate to the Annual Fund today.*

NUMBER OF DONORS IN FY 2015



ANNUAL FUND YEAR-TO-DATE AND TOTALS



A STATE HOUSE COMMISSION

NBSS was hired by the Governor's office to create furniture for the State House restoration—an armoire for the Governor's Council chamber and a pair of library tables. NBSS president Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez engaged a group of graduates, including Eli Cleveland, CF '09 and Richard Oedel, CF '05, to make the pieces.



This new table is a replica of the original H.H. Richardson table.

"It was a major project to bring all of this together in 6 weeks... the work included several hundred carved details and columns, and posts and feet that were built to withstand daily, heavy use."

Richard Oedel, CF '05 led the team making the tables. The job included restoring an original table made by H. H. Richardson in the 1890s and adjusting the height to meet ADA accessibility. The state house also asked for a second new oval table to replicate the original in every aspect and be ADA accessible and a third, also new, round



One of the new tables in the State House.

table, with a leather top that would use the same design inspirations of the original. Oedel notes about the project "It was a major project to bring all of this together in 6 weeks... the work included several hundred carved details and columns, and posts and feet that were built to withstand daily, heavy use." The materials used mirrored the originals—primarily Mahogany. The joinery techniques on the lower section of the new tables are dramatically improved over the originals. The round table is a completely new design and the leather was matched to the leather on the top of the Governor's desk. Working with Richard were Alex Krutsky, CF '81, Matt Huffman, CF '09, Dwayne Bailey, CF '06, Greg Brown, CF '10, Heather Dawson and Nick Ventola.

Eli Cleveland, CF '09 tackled the replacement of an existing mahogany breakfront to accommodate modern equipment including a large TV and other equipment needed for presentations and video conferencing. To create something that would fit in the historic room, Eli drew both literally and conceptually from the original. The dimensions and some details changed but others, including the lower doors, a similar approach to the upper doors and a carved crown molding closely match the original.

The reputation of NBSS as a school that teaches period furniture making and the strong network of graduates who stay connected to the school make projects such as these possible and continue the rich history of Massachusetts furniture makers into the future.

Additional details and pictures are online at nbss.edu/statehousefurniture. ☺



The new breakfront.

ALUMNI NEWS

BOOKBINDING



Samuel Withrow

Wendy Withrow, BB '08 wrote to *Benchmarks* with the news that baby Samuel, joined the family on June 10, 2014 and that Samuel's big sister Mira is a huge helper.



Book by Johanna Finnegan-Topitzer, BB '03

Johanna Finnegan-Topitzer, BB '03 received a Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist's Fellowship. Her latest work is a series of wooden animal books.

Amy Crist, BB '03 has suspended her private book and paper conservation/bookbinding practice and returned to Cleveland Museum of Art as the Associate Book and Paper Conservator and, on May 14, 2014, she and her husband welcomed their first child Penelope Rebecca Crist Downing.



Penelope Rebecca Crist Downing

Rebekah Gardiner, BB '93 exhibited books in the Roddy competition exhibit at the Concord Artists Association and Bibliophilia at Nave Annex in Somerville.

Anne McLain, BB '10 has a new role in their Collections Care lab at Widener Library at Harvard University. She also has two books in traveling Guild of Bookworkers exhibits.

CARPENTRY



Feinmann Inc.

Feinmann, Inc. the company owned by **Peter Feinmann, CA '83** won a 2015 Contractor of the Year Award from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry for a Bauhaus Landmark Renovation project in Cambridge. His firm also won two local Contractor of the Year Awards and Feinmann, Inc. was also recognized by the Builders and Remodelers Association of Greater Boston (BRAGB) with two 2014 PRISM Awards.



Millie Maude O'Shaughnessy

Patrick O'Shaughnessy, CA '06 and his wife Caitlin welcomed Millie Maude on August 30, 2014.

Emanuel Silva, CA '93 published an article titled "Repair and Replace Strip Flooring" in the *Journal of Light Construction* and an article "Decking over a Roof" in *Fine Homebuilding*.

CABINET & FURNITURE

Annette Sophie Lippert, CF '14 collaborated with **Geraldine Kish Perry, JM '00** on a jewelry box for Geraldine's store Fairbank & Perry Goldsmiths in Concord and she has joined the faculty at the Eliot School in Jamaica Plain MA.



Jewelry box by Annette Sophie Lippert, CF '14

NBSS acquired a coffee table by **Mike Codispoti, CF '11** for the president's office.



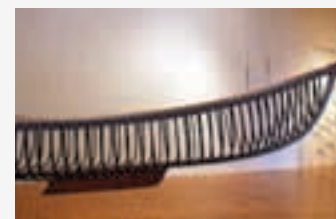
Table by Mike Codispoti, CF '11

"Schools of Thought III: North Bennet Street School," an exhibit at the New Hampshire Furniture Masters Gallery included work by graduates from North Bennet Street School. Participating makers were **Bradley Wolcott, CF '12**, **Greg Brown, CF '10**, **Jeffrey Roberts, CF '81**, **Richard Oedel, CF '05**, **Steve Brown, CF '90**, and **William Thomas, CF '80**.



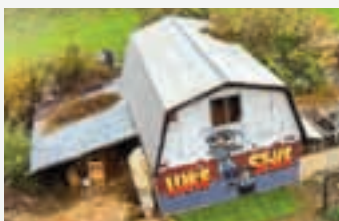
Tea table by Steve Brown, CF '90

Work by **Shaun Bullens, CF '05** was shown in a solo exhibit at Anderson Gallery at Bridgewater State University.



Work by Shaun Bullens, CF '05

Ben Blackmar, CF '14 wrote an article for *Fine Woodworking* about the reproduction bureau for the Emily Dickinson Museum that **Caleb Schultz, CF '13** made while he was a student at NBSS.



Kyle Toth, CF '11's new shop

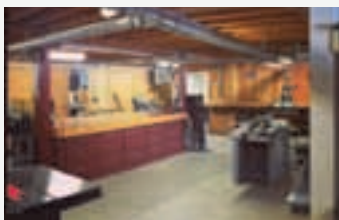
In the past 6 months, **Kyle Toth, CF '11** moved into his own shop in Murrieta CA, began making videos of his process and was the subject of an artist spotlight produced by Vigil Films.



Design by Lance Patterson, CF '79

Long-time instructor **Lance Patterson, CF '79** exhibited his designs in Windgate Gallery at NBSS. He began making the designs in the 1970s and many pieces in the exhibit dated from that period. Lance donated the proceeds from the sale of his work to the NBSS Annual Fund.

Jeremy Gallant, CF '12 moved into his own shop, a custom barn in Rye NH.



Jeremy Gallant, CF '12's new shop

JEWELRY

e. scott originals, the store founded by Jewelry making and repair graduate **Emily Scott, JM '07** was awarded best jewelry store in Somerville by the Somerville Scout.

Cathy Bobzin, JM '06, recently taught a 2-day workshop in the full-time jewelry making and repair program on making ear wires and mass finishing for a production line.

Sarah Phetteplace, JM '13 is working in NYC for Diva Award winning designer Elizabeth Garvin.

LOCKSMITHING

Shaun Desmond, LK '15 graduated in February and began working at Pasek and studying for his Class D electricians license.

Ian McEntee, LK '15 graduated in February and is working at Boston Lock & Safe.

Nick Lang, LK '15 graduated in February and is working at Securadyne Systems, specializing in electrified hardware access control.

PRESERVATION CARPENTRY

Sally Fishburn, PC '91 presented four lectures and a series of three-day hands-on workshops on window restoration in Connecticut and a lecture on the same topic in Boston in April.



Adam Rissolo, PC '08's restoration project

Adam Rissolo, PC '08 is currently working for a contractor restoring a 1926 Colonial Revival field stone estate designed by Mott B. Schmidt for Alice Astor. The estate is called Marienruh and is in Rhinebeck NY.

Brent Hull, PC '93 was featured in *Dallas Morning News* in an article titled "Will your new house stand the test of time?"

PIANO TECHNOLOGY

Jon Guenther, PA '11 has a new job as Chief Piano Technician at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

Paul Marshall, PA '03 was the subject of an article in *SF Gate*, a San Francisco paper.

Donna Byrd, PT '81 Is officially retired but she notes that she is happiest and healthiest when remaining active in the music community of Eugene OR.



David Betts, PA '72 celebrates 40 years

David Betts, PA '72 head of the piano technology department, was presented with cake at NBSS in celebration of his 40 year tenure as an NBSS instructor.

John Cavanaugh, PT '87 has a new role as Executive Director of Keyboard Technology at Oberlin Conservatory and is Co-Director of "Steinway at Oberlin" a one-week technical program.

VIOLIN

Two NBSS graduates won awards at the annual Violin Society of America Convention and Competition.

Paul Crowley, VM '03 (left) won a Certificate of Merit for Workmanship for Viola and a Certificate of Merit for Tone for Violin and **Ed Halloran, VM '02** won a Silver Medal for Viola Tone. **Peter Bingen, VM '05** snapped the photo.



Paul Crowley, VM '03 and Ed Halloran, VM '02 win VSA awards



This has been a busy and exciting year for the Alumni Association with lots of wonderful things still to come!

We began the school year by hosting the first ever Student & Alumni BBQ which welcomed new students to the school and gave alumni a chance to see old friends. In December we revived the Student & Alumni Holiday Party with a fun event at the school—more than 130 alumni and guests attended and more than \$3,000 of raffle prizes were given away.

On May 28, the Alumni Association hosts a closing reception for the Student & Alumni Exhibit which is on display in the Windgate Gallery, May 18–29.

More details on this and future summer meetings and events are coming soon.

WATCH FOR A SURVEY that will be circulated to alumni this spring to help assess the interests of graduates and help the Alumni Association plan effective programs and events. When you receive the email survey, please take a few minutes to share your thoughts and help us plan for the future!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED in learning more about the Alumni Association or we do not have your current email address, please contact Alumni Association President, Colleen Matthews, JM '12, alumniassociation@nbss.edu.

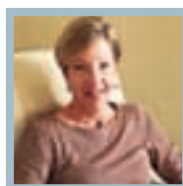
Changing of the guard

At the December 17, 2014 Annual Meeting, the school thanked and recognized outgoing Directors Elliot Davis, Henry Becton, Peder Johnson, and Caroline Mortimer who each completed two terms of service with the board. The Board then unanimously elected each of them to the Committee of Overseers. In addition, the board voted to unanimously elect four additional Overseers, Ellen Coolidge Burbank, Linda Kochman, C. Michael Malm, and Stefanie von Clemm. The board thanked Deborah Hall, Jonathan Levi, Laura Shucart and William Shucart who completed their terms on the Committee of Overseers. The Board of Directors unanimously voted to elect four new Directors:

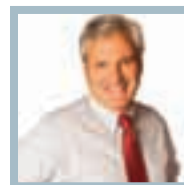
Felix D. Arroyo | Felix, a long-time resident and leader of the City of Boston, served as the first Latino elected citywide member of the Boston City Council, President of the Boston School Committee, Director of Personnel and Education Advisor for the City of Boston and founded the first statewide Latino political organization in Massachusetts. He completed his undergraduate studies and received a Masters in Secondary Education at the University of Puerto Rico. Felix was recently elected as the Register of Probate and Family Court for Suffolk County in Massachusetts.



Tim Williams | Tim is returning to a formal role at the North Bennet Street School for the first time in a number of years. In the 1970s, while working at Umass-Boston, Tim served on the NBSS Board for two years. He then worked for NBSS for almost 19 years and was the Executive Director for the last 17 of those years. After he left NBSS, Tim moved to Vermont and worked for the accrediting commission that accredits NBSS for 13 years. After he retired, Tim became President of his condominium association and a ski instructor at Mad River Glen. His connection to NBSS goes back generations, his grandmother and father both served on the NBSS Board of Directors.



Janet English, Ph.D. | Janet is a psychologist and psychoanalyst in Boston. She received her undergraduate degree from Vassar College, her Master's degree at NYU and her Ph.D. at Adelphi University in New York. Janet teaches at the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute and the Massachusetts Institute of Psychoanalysis and is on the faculty of Tufts University Department of Psychiatry. Janet, her husband and their two dogs live in Beacon Hill. Their two grown boys visit often and love their new family home in the city. Janet's mother Natalie Albers is a long-time supporter of NBSS. She served on the Board in the 1980s–1990s and is currently an Overseer.



Marc Margulies, AIA, LEED AP | Marc is the founding principal of Margulies Perruzzi Architects, a 25-year-old design firm focused on

architecture and interior design for corporate, professional services, real estate development, healthcare, and lab/R&D clients. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania (undergraduate and MArch) he is on the boards of Heading Home, CoreNet, NAIOP, Boys and Girls Club of Boston and Mount Ida College. Marc is passionate about wood bowl-turning, which he initially learned to do at NBSS and now enjoys most weekends at his shop in New London, New Hampshire. He and his wife Anne have three grown children. They live in downtown Boston, a short stroll from NBSS.

DONOR PROFILE

Steven's enthusiasm for craft and education began long before his introduction to North Bennet Street School. His introduction to carpentry and woodworking was through the theater club in high school and one of his first jobs as a lighting designer.

He continued building and learning while working full-time in the computer information technology field, informed by watching every episode of *The New Yankee Workshop*, and *The Woodwright's Shop*.

In 2002, and with his self-taught skills, Steven left computer technology behind and began spending his time building bookshelves and kitchen cabinets in his home. One project led to another and Steven's desire to learn the best methods and sharpen his abilities brought him to NBSS.

Steven's mother was one of his biggest supporters, financing his one-month trip from New Jersey to Boston for the NBSS Introduction to Fine Woodworking workshop in 2006. "Don't miss the opportunity", Steven says, when talking about having a chance to come to NBSS.

From there, Steven jumped at many opportunities to train at NBSS, taking courses in carving, turning, wooden molding plane making and furniture embellishment. He has made his trek to Boston many times and became a passionate member of the NBSS community.

"Quality" is the word Steven uses when describing NBSS programs, instructors, students and their finished work. His mother, who supported him taking his first class at NBSS, taught him about the importance of tradition, honor, community and the need for educational diversity through her involvement on the board of trustees at her boarding school, Linden Hall School in Lititz PA. Steven joined the Linden Hall board as treasurer and credits his time as a board member and his mother's ideals and principles with his approach to supporting NBSS.

Steven uses his experiences and his love of woodworking to guide him in the special projects he supports. He wants to be sure that the school and all the programs are maintained, treasured and continue far into the future. As for his future endeavors, Steven plans to expand his studies at NBSS into different programs, signing up for the piano technology workshop this summer, and continuing to contribute to the school as opportunities arise. ☺



STEVEN SOPPE

"Quality" is the word Steven uses when describing NBSS programs, instructors, students and their finished work.

Need a piano tuner?

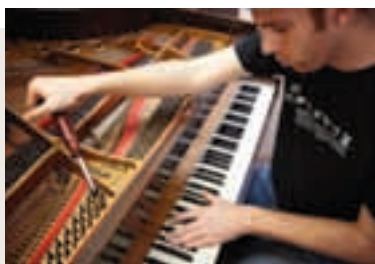
Once they have mastered piano tuning skills, students in the advanced piano technology program spend time tuning and doing minor repairs on pianos in the Boston area.

"Tuning pianos for clients provides invaluable practice for advanced piano

technology students. Clients are thrilled with the service and attention to detail that North Bennet Street School students provide."

DEBBIE CYR, PIANO TECHNOLOGY INSTRUCTOR

For information on having a North Bennet Street School student tune your piano, call/write 617-227-2357 / pianotech@nbss.edu.



BENCHMARKS | The newsletter of North Bennet Street School

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Send news and comments to newsletter@nbss.edu

Design: Moth Design, Kate Nazemi



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STUDENT & ALUMNI EXHIBIT

MAY 18-29, 2015

WINDGATE GALLERY, NORTH BENNET STREET SCHOOL, 150 NORTH STREET, BOSTON
EXHIBITOR RECEPTION, THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2015, 5:00 - 8:00 PM