

BENCHMARKS

THE MAGAZINE OF NORTH BENNET STREET SCHOOL



“There is both good and bad work, and if you have the skills, it is your choice to do the former or the latter. A joint either fits or it doesn’t, a lock either works or it doesn’t. The letters of a gold stamped title either align or they don’t. It is not ambiguous.”



Read Miguel’s take on our School’s unique Program Personalities, page 6.

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS MORE OF

BY MIGUEL GÓMEZ-IBÁÑEZ CF '99
President of NBSS

I HAVE BEEN PROUD TO BE THE PRESIDENT of this wonderful school for the past 12 years, and at the end of this year I will pass on the role to a new, capable leader. I’d like to share some thoughts about what I have learned since coming here, first as a student 22 years ago, and later as president.

I had never heard of North Bennet Street School when I came across an exhibition of student and alumni work at the Boston Architectural Center on Newbury Street in 1996. The competence I saw in the work in that exhibition inspired me to leave the career I had always imagined for myself and enroll in the Cabinet & Furniture Making program. I wanted to be that skilled.

As a student, I spent each day focused on the present moment—not the past or the future as I had been trained to do, and I found that time passed without notice. The longer I worked at a task, the longer I felt I could work. I experienced a growing sense of confidence in myself, and yet the more I learned the more I saw there was to learn. For the first time in my life I went home each day with a sense of accomplishment.

I learned two lessons in my time here that have a great deal of meaning for me, and that I believe are the essential lessons of North Bennet Street School; the lessons that Pauline Agassiz Shaw, the School’s founder, understood when she said her aim was to train the “whole person.” “Not how to make a living but how to live.”

First, I learned that there is both good and bad work, and if you have the skills, it is your choice to do the former or the latter. A joint either fits or it doesn’t, a lock either works or it doesn’t. The letters of a gold stamped title either align or they don’t. It is not ambiguous. The result of your work is plain for everyone to see or hear, and it is impossible to shift the blame for bad work to someone else. That reality instilled in me, in all of us I think, a sense of honesty.

That is the lesson that Matt Crawford described so clearly in his book *Shop Class as Soul Craft* and in his graduation address to us in 2009. As he said, “Our work forms us and good work is the basis for a good life.”

In this age when even basic reality is not agreed upon, and the value of truth itself seems to be in doubt, when people can make false statements and take no responsibility, here at North Bennet Street School we live in a world where you can see the difference between good work and bad work; where our standards, our values, don’t change with every situation. Here, reality is plain to see and responsibility is unambiguous.

The second lesson I learned is that mistakes can be good things. They are how you grow. I think you learn more from making a mistake than you do from getting something right the first time. I made plenty of mistakes as a student, and continue to do so, when I have cut the wrong line and ruined whatever I was working on. I had to glue two pieces back together so that no one could see the joint, or root around on the floor for a replacement piece of wood with grain that matched so that no one would notice the repair.

For me, learning the value of my mistakes was important. I could make a mistake, and rather than assess blame or get consumed by self-criticism, I was taught to figure out what went wrong and go about repairing the damage with confidence that I could make it right.

Each year our graduates take the skills learned in their particular trade and go out into the “real” world to make the life for themselves that they imagined. To this year’s graduates I say this:

You have extraordinary skills with which to make a living, but the challenge is to lead a life in which you don’t stop knowing good work from bad. You approach your mistakes with both humility and confidence, and you leave work each day with a sense of accomplishment. Those are the larger lessons, not of “how to make a living,” but “how to live” that I have come to see that North Bennet Street School has been teaching for 137 years.

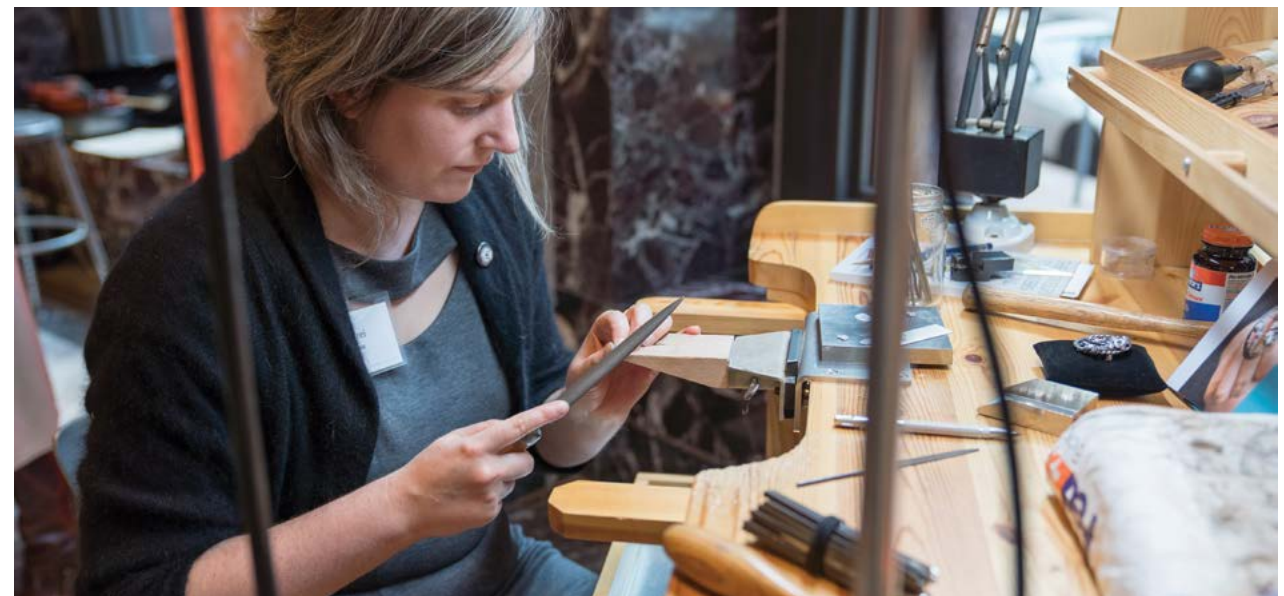
It is clearly what the world needs more of.
It is clear that the world needs more of you.

ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF CRAFT

Each year, NBSS hosts a series of events that supports the School's mission to train students for careers in traditional trades. The centerpiece of these events, the Student & Alumni Exhibit, featured over 100 pieces of work from our talented community. Guests of our Opening Reception had a fun evening with student demonstrations, lively music, and great conversation.

All proceeds from the Annual Celebration of Craft go directly to supporting our next generation of makers.

For more great photos, visit facebook.com/NBSSboston.



PROGRAM PERSONALITIES

AS SHARED BY **PRESIDENT MIGUEL GÓMEZ-IBÁÑEZ**
at the School's 2018 Commencement Ceremony.
View his full speech at nbss.edu/videos.

I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO GET TO KNOW ALL OF YOU, and not just this graduating class but a dozen graduating classes. Over the years I have come to appreciate what a diverse community that we have the privilege to be a part of. In the process I have noticed that each program has its own personality and contributes in its own way to the extraordinary mix that makes our School so great.



The **Locksmiths** are problem solvers. You love puzzles. You have a sense of purpose, because you provide security. Your work is needed. The rest of us wish we were as needed.

The **Jewelers** are focused and exacting, working on a scale that requires magnification. You work with expensive materials, often at the edge of disaster. I know it is stressful, I have seen it, and I think that yours is the most intense program we have. You, perhaps more than the rest of us, have had to learn patience.

Carpenters are high energy and action oriented. You are gregarious, you are team players. You are the only ones who leave here with the confidence that you can actually put a roof over your head.

Furniture Makers, on the other hand, prefer to work alone. You are more artsy than most of us, but meticulous in your attention to detail—spending vast amounts of time on interior details that no one will ever see, because it is the right thing to do.

As for **Piano Technicians**, no one will see your good work either, but they will hear it. You are the kind and caring people here. You work behind the scenes. You work hard to make it possible for someone else to look good.

Preservation Carpenters are our historians, our academics. You love research and investigation and documentation. You are more laid back than many of us, but just as serious. You look out for our future by taking care of our past.

Bookbinders are academics as well, and also concerned with our cultural history, but I think, more cerebral. The world that engages you is the world of printing and the printed word. That must be the reason you seem to have more tattoos than the rest of us. You are a quirky group and proud of it.

Violin Makers are perfectionists. You are probably the most confident of all of us. I think you are the School's rebels because you seem to need to challenge authority. You don't want to accept the constraints that other people play by, but you are willing to impose upon your selves the most exacting standards possible.

HANDMADE BOOKS, JEWELRY, BOWLS, FURNITURE, AND MORE.

(Plus all your favorite tools too.)

NBSS SHOWROOM & STORE

Open Monday through Friday
9:30 am to 4:30 pm, or by appointment

Shop Tours

An ongoing
exploration of
workspaces from
our community.

PrintCraft

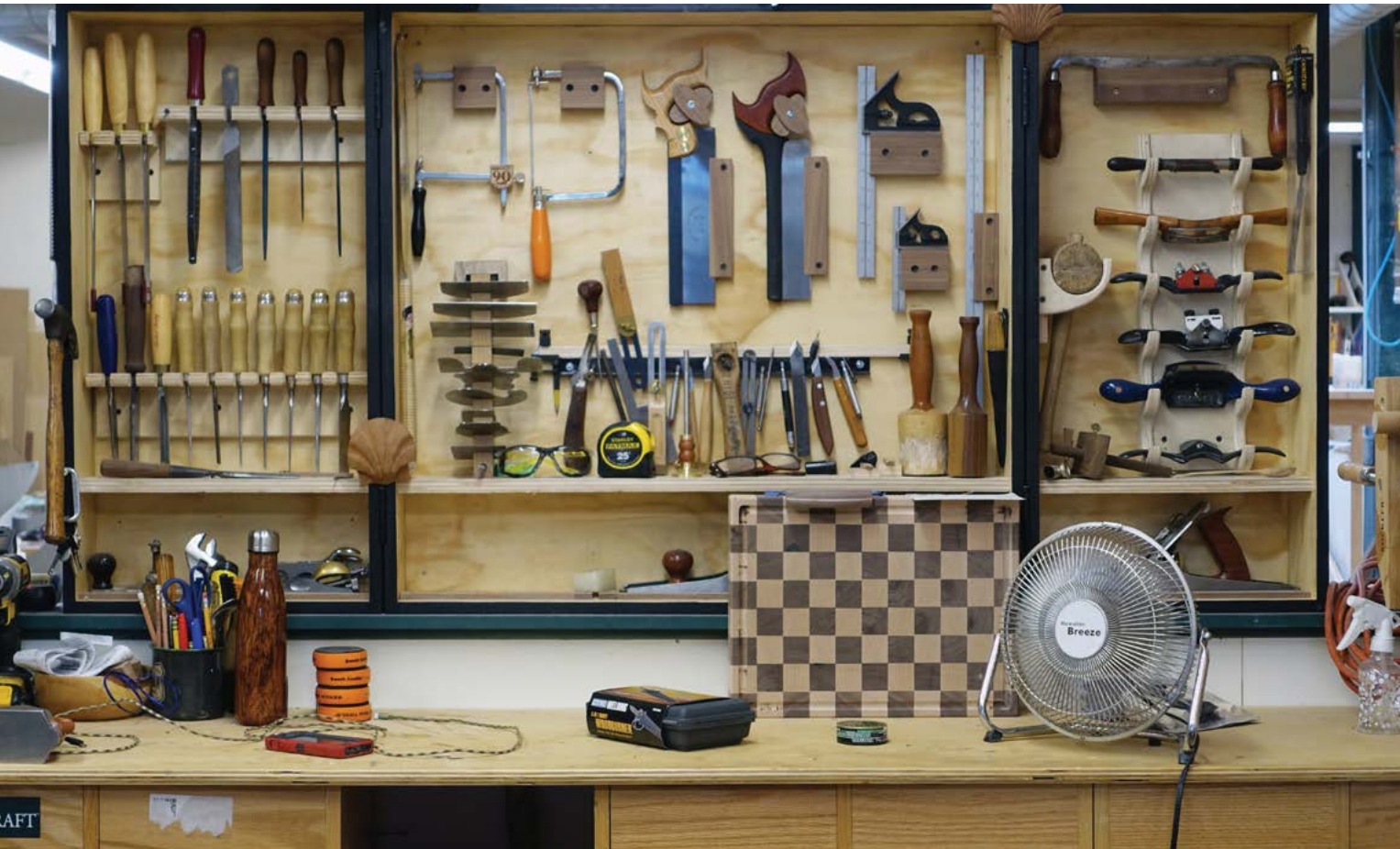
Portland, Maine

PrintCraft is a new studio boutique founded by Bookbinding program instructor Martha Kearsley BB '96 of Strong Arm Bindery, and her longtime friend Lisa Pixley of Press W.i.p. Editions. A former grocery store and later, an apartment, the single-story space is a feast for the eyes with a newsprint-linoleum floor, artwork all around, and open shop space beyond. PrintCraft offers affordable fine art prints, letterpress, serial publications, and experiments in stationery. [@printcraft207](https://www.printcraft207.com)



View more photos
of these spaces and
other shop tours at
nbss.edu/blog.

We love seeing shops,
stores, and studios of
all kinds. Send a note
to info@nbss.edu
to be featured in
this new series.



Charlestown Furniture Makers

Boston, Massachusetts

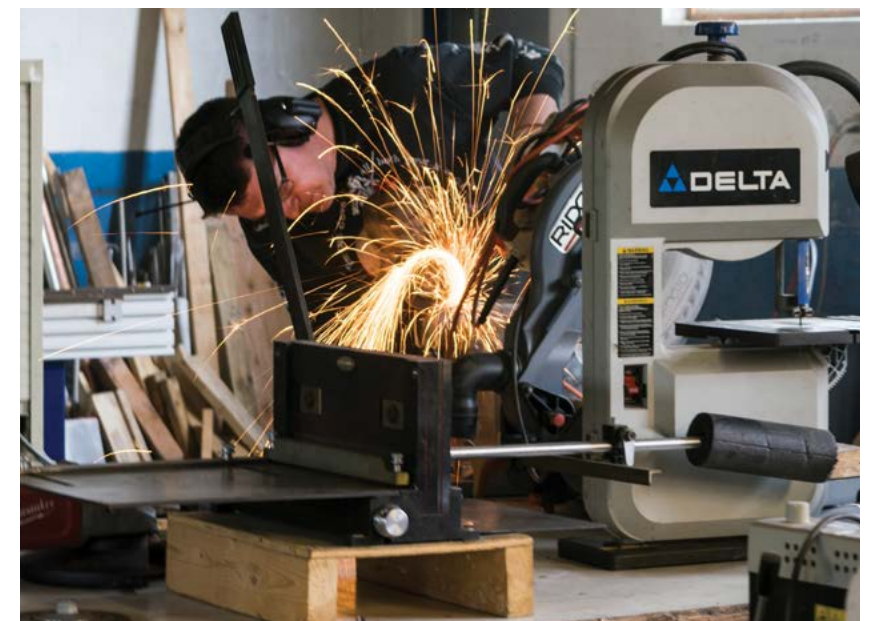
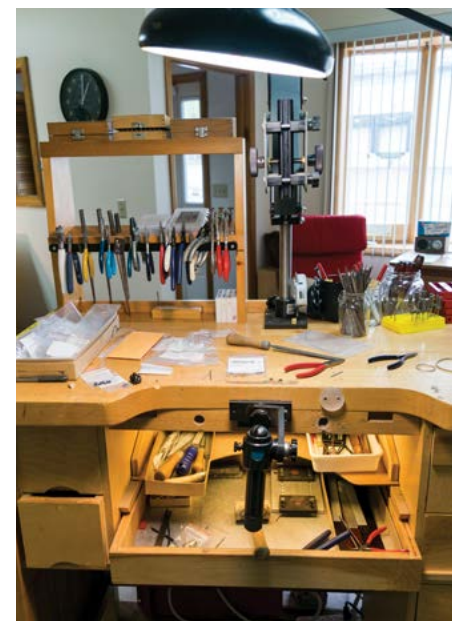
Established in 2012 by David Ambler CF '11, Charlestown Furniture Makers is an 8,000 sf shared facility located in one of Boston's last remaining industrial areas. The space boasts a 2,200 sf machine room, complete with large jointer, five table saws, and nearly two dozen other pieces of machinery. Rounding out the two-story shop are a spray booth, finishing area, and bench space for up to 20 makers—nine of whom are NBSS graduates.



Flying Marquis Studio

Leominster, Massachusetts

Ann Cahoon JM '02, Department Head of the Jewelry Making & Repair program, is a designer goldsmith whose work focuses on high carat gold and platinum fabrication. She founded Flying Marquis Studio in 2005, and now works alongside her metalworker husband, who owns [Chris Ploof Designs](#). Their combined 10,000 sf shop is fully outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment and technology.



As the preeminent school of craft,
we provide the highest quality
education possible.



Scholarship aid is essential if we
are to accept the best, brightest,
and broadest possible range of
students.

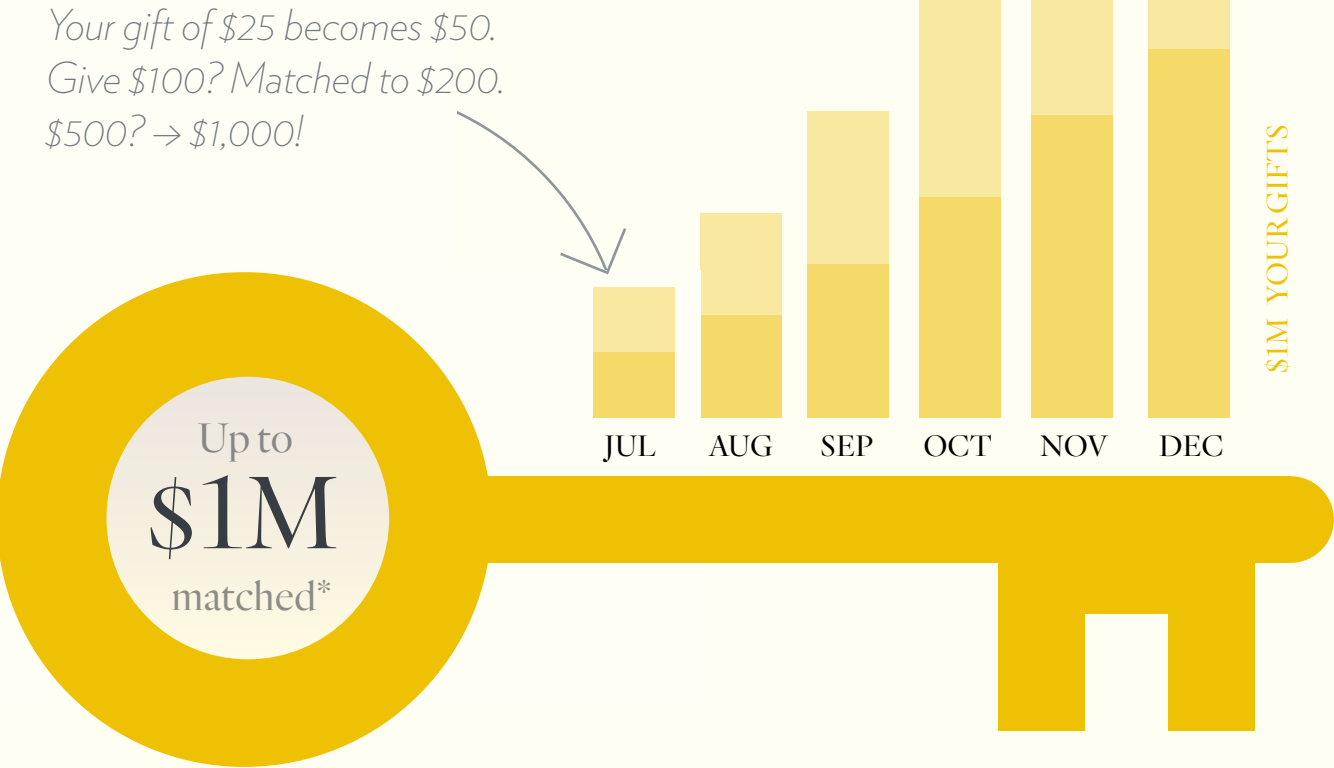
Our goal is to triple the financial assistance
provided to our students, allowing the School to
award over \$1 million in scholarships each year.
With less student debt, the next generation of our
graduates will be free to pursue careers based on
their passions, not their financial obligation.

Thanks to our generous donors, over \$625,000
in scholarship aid will be awarded to deserving
students this academic year.

"My time at NBSS has been truly life-changing. It's hard to put into words just how thankful I am for the scholarship and all the doors it's opened for me."

Help us unlock a 1:1 match worth \$1M for our programs!

Thanks to a foundation's generous challenge
grant, your gift of any amount will be matched
dollar-for-dollar, up to \$1,000,000!



** Through 12/31/2018. Benefits all programs.*

The *Lives & Livelihoods Campaign* will triple the financial assistance the School provides, offering the broadest range of students an affordable path to professional training. The Campaign's goals are to:

- Raise \$20 million in endowed funds for student aid.
- Award our talented students over \$1 million in scholarships each year, by 2020.
- Eliminate annual tuition increases by 2020.
- Reduce the financial burden of our talented graduates, across all programs.



With your help, we will:

CONTINUE TO PROVIDE a high-quality education in craft.

OPEN the School's doors to talented, passionate students of all backgrounds.

PRODUCE the next generation of leaders working across craft traditions.

SECURE craft's place as a viable path to meaningful lives and livelihoods.

CARRY the School's mission into the future.

[NBSS.EDU/CAMPAIGN](https://nbss.edu/campaign)

Double
your gift!

LIVES & LIVELIHOODS

A CAMPAIGN FOR THE FUTURE OF CRAFT

NORTH BENNET STREET SCHOOL

Every gift, no matter how large or small, helps make a difference to our students. Thank you.

For information on how you can support NBSS, please contact

Somers Killian, Senior Development Coordinator
617.227.0155 x172 | skillian@nbss.edu

North Bennet Street School
150 North Street
Boston, MA 02109





THE CLASS OF 2018

Proud families, smiling grads, and a fife-and-drum parade were all part of this year's inspired commencement ceremony. Join us in congratulating our grads and welcoming them to the broader alumni community.

View a highlights video and even more happy photos of graduation at nbss.edu/blog.





2018 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

THE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD is given annually to an alumnus who is nominated by their alumni peers and voted upon by the Alumni Association. The decision is based on a nominee's professional accomplishments, their contributions to their craft, and/or their work with schools and organizations to promote excellence in craft. This year the Award goes to Will Neptune CF '81, who's not only a graduate, but also a former instructor, from 1985–2000.

During his 15 years as an instructor at NBSS, Will was well known for his passion, energy, and ability to solve complex woodworking problems—no matter their size and scope. Former students praise his wealth of knowledge, generosity, insight, intuition, and innovation. Much of the current CF curriculum is based on fundamental skill-building exercises that Will created when he was a teacher. Will is responsible for providing early career mentorship to dozens of masterful makers. We are proud to claim him as our own North Bennet Street School alumnus.

According to the original nomination, "Will is one of the great minds and teachers of furniture and woodworking in the country... His passion, energy and enthusiasm are infectious to his students."

In addition to this honor, Will was also the 2013 winner of the prestigious Cartouche Award, an award given for excellence in period furniture making. He has also been a frequent contributor to *Fine Woodworking*, an instructor at Connecticut Valley School of Woodworking, an author of woodworking books, and a presenter for Woodworking In America.

Will continues to practice his craft as a furniture maker and renowned master carver in the Boston area.

ABOVE NBSS Alumni Association President Michael Wilson PT '11, PA '12 presents the Distinguished Alumni Award to Will Neptune CF '81

EXPANDING STUDENT RESOURCES

Training students for careers in traditional trades is at the very heart of our mission, and we aim to make the student experience just as rewarding. This past year NBSS brought on new staff to help new, returning, and former students feel comfortable and connected, gain new experiences, and prepare them for their future careers.



Bryan McGrath

Director of Student Life & Career Services
studentlife@nbss.edu or alumni@nbss.edu

Professional: Bryan has 20 years of service as a professional in student and alumni affairs programs at both large universities and small private colleges. This includes campus activities, student leadership, career advising, residence life, student conduct, large-scale event planning, team building, motivating, and crisis management. At NBSS, his focus has been "empowering students so they can achieve meaningful lives and careers." He's been responsible for over-

seeing the seven-part Business Fundamentals course, organizing student interest clubs, and connecting students and grads with healthcare, housing, jobs/commissions, and other important resources.

Personal: Bryan's hobbies are reading, listening to music, playing piano and drums, hiking, traveling, and philanthropy.

Ask him about: Career options for students and grads, Title IX policies, his favorite "dad jokes."



Kristen Odle

Retail & Exhibitions Manager
gallery@nbss.edu

Professional: Kristen has worked within the retail industry for over a decade. Prior to NBSS, she was a manager/designer of a high-end custom frame shop in Boston, with duties that encompassed retail sales, window display, and employee training. She worked with clients—private collectors, artists, gallerists, and interior designers—on achieving both structural and aesthetic decisions for their art, as well as making the occasional design house call. In just six months at NBSS she's

overhauled the store's design, brought on new inventory, and coordinated three exhibits, including the expansive Annual Celebration of Craft. According to Kristen, "I've been enamored by the School for as long as I've lived in Boston (a very long time!) and am excited to be a part of this artisan institution."

Personal: Kristen's passion in life is making, whether it be wood carving, sewing, and/or crafting anything and everything with her hands. She also plays the cello!

Ask her about: Selling your work in the Store, how to take great product photos, where to get brass hardware to make an otherwise boring display look snazzy.

YOU'RE HIRED!

A Non-Exhaustive List of 2018
Graduating Student Employers*

Anthony Bagni Construction
Beethoven Pianos
Belmont Hill School
Boston Athenaeum
Boston BoatWorks
Boston Lock & Safe Co.
Brighton Locksmith & Hardware Shop
Brooklyn Design & Fabrication
Built-Well Construction Company
C2MG Builders
Carr Carpentry & Restoration
Catamount Builders
Chris Ploof Designs
Columbia Construction
Cunningham Piano Company
Do-It-All Home Repairs & Improvements
Florentine Renaissance Masonry
Fred's Piano Service
Freeburg Pianos
H. Perron Locksmiths
J.N. Piccariello
Jacobs Music
Jeremy Kindall Home Restoration & Repair
JW Graham Painting
Ken Perron Builder
Kochman Reidt + Haigh
Master's Touch Design Build
National Parks Service
NDA Restoration
North Bennet Street School
Old State House Museum
Pat's Key N Lock
Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University
Perkins School for the Blind
Pomeroy & Co.
Rare Violins of New York
Reen Construction Company
Sean Mallari Piano Tuning & Restoration
TimberHomes Vermont
Turner's Keyboards of Augusta
United States Army
University of Southern California,
Thornton School of Music
Widener Library at Harvard University
William Gould Architectural Preservation

* Some employers have employed multiple grads



Tons of fallen trees are being repurposed for the arts and culture community in Puerto Rico. Photo by William Gould/U.S. Forest Service.

READY FOR THE STORM

Lori Foley BB '95, Administrator of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

BY KEVIN DERRICK

Lori Foley BB '95 has charted what might be considered an unusual course: from training in the Bookbinding program at North Bennet Street School to leading the national effort on protecting cultural heritage from the damaging effects of natural disasters and other emergencies. While Lori's path is all her own, its trajectory reads like so many of her fellow alumni: what began at NBSS was just the beginning of a life-long exploration of craft and career.

Here Lori shares details of her background, how she's helping the arts and culture community in Puerto Rico, and the first thing that goes through her mind when she learns of a natural disaster. Coincidentally, the interview occurred soon after a serious storm hit Massachusetts.

This interview has been edited for space and clarity.

Thank you so much for making the time in what sounds like a very busy schedule to have this conversation.

The timing is good because I head back to Puerto Rico tomorrow. I came back from D.C. yesterday. This is my little tiny window of time at home with the power on.

Oh, that's great. There are 140,000 people without power in Massachusetts I'm told.

I came home on Friday, leaving 80-degree weather in San Juan. Our house had been without power for three days. I was all ready to check into a hotel but my husband said to tough it out. He was right; I couldn't very well complain

about the lack of power when I had left a place where so many people had been without power for months.

I'm curious what led you to government and why you chose that over academia or non-profits? Before you began work with FEMA in 2015, you had director and executive-level roles at several prestigious institutions.

At the Northeast Document Conservation Center I became increasingly involved with and excited about disaster planning (which is just one component of preservation). I worked on pulling together a cultural heritage emergency network in Massachusetts and managed grant-funded projects on emergency preparedness for cultural institutions like museums, libraries, archives. That eventually led to a position at Heritage Preservation in Washington, D.C.

In addition to coordinating Heritage Preservation's emergency programs, I was administrator of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, a public-private partnership between FEMA and the private nonprofit HP. When HP folded in 2015, I worked very briefly at the Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation to help settle HP's emergency programs into FAIC. The Smithsonian Institution stepped up to the plate to assume the private half of the Task Force partnership, and FEMA hired me to continue managing the Task Force. And since everything at FEMA has to have an acronym, the Heritage Emergency National Task Force became known as HENTF.

Very funny, got it. Can you share what the Heritage Emergency National Task Force (or HENTF) does?

HENTF was organized in 1995 on the heels of some pretty major disasters. Today, HENTF counts among its members 58 national service organizations and federal agencies. True to its original mission, HENTF helps cultural institutions prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

The hurricane caused tremendous tree fall. There are hardwoods in Puerto Rico, and a lot of the material was being chipped. The better idea is to gather these downed trees and figure out a way they can be used for better purposes.

What goes through your mind when you first learn of a major disaster?

The first thing is people: who has been affected, how have they been affected, how many have been affected? Life safety and life-saving are always the highest priorities following a disaster.



Lori Foley BB '95.

Next, what is the impact on cultural resources?

If it's flooding, is it in a rural area where there may not be many cultural institutions? Or is it an urban area like Houston that has a major concentration of museums and performing arts organizations? Then I ask, "Do I know anybody in that area?" If I do, how can I reach out to them to get more information from the ground? The local information is the most valuable.

So you're not on the first response team then?

No, I don't need to be in the way of life safety and life-saving. But we can't let these artifacts and cultural resources just wash away or drown in the water they're sitting in. While search and rescue activities are ongoing on the ground, a lot of work can be done to mobilize teams, make sure lines of communication are open, and help cultural stewards along the way.

There have been disasters that have affected areas where we learn there is very little damage to cultural institutions, for which I breathe a sigh of relief. Then there are other places, like Houston or New Orleans, that suffer a great deal of damage. At that point it's trying to gather as many resources as possible.

It sounds like a lot of your work, especially for the task force, is working with people.

Correct. It's all about who you know so you can connect people with the resources they need. Normally, I'm more of a 30,000-foot-view organizer. I am not necessarily on the ground—though actually I was supposed to deploy to Texas. Two days before my deployment, Hurricane Irma was rearing her ugly head. My deployment was canceled because I needed to stay at a higher level to coordinate activities both in Texas and then in Florida. Then Hurricane Maria came and hit Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Talk to me a bit about Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and what you've been doing there.

The facility that I'm working in—along with hundreds of others from FEMA and other federal agencies—is called the Joint Field Office, or JFO. That's the hub of all the federal activities that occur in response and recovery. I am in this little tiny sliver called the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function. Everyone is focused on their particular area of expertise, but on some level our actions have to mesh like gears or cogs in a wheel.

Can you give an example?

An interesting one that came up was where my Cultural Resources intersected with Natural Resources.

The hurricane caused tremendous tree fall. There are hardwoods in Puerto Rico; precious hardwoods are a big component of the economy. Because there is just so much wood debris there, a lot of the material was being chipped and shredded into mulch. But we don't want to do that with the precious hardwood because wood chips go for \$2.50 a cubic yard, but a whole log of mahogany can sell for \$1,000. The better idea is to work with the US Army Corps of Engineers to gather these downed trees and figure out a way they can be used for better purposes.

One idea that is being pursued now is milling these logs into lumber, which can be used to help repair

the historic structures that are constructed of these hardwoods, as many in Puerto Rico are.

There's a really proud tradition of woodworking in Puerto Rico, so for the wood that can't be turned into lumber, give that to artisans. So many have lost their livelihoods. This is one way to help the woodworkers start getting back to creating, and to putting food on the table.

Wow, that's fantastic. I never would have thought about tree fall as a form of resource reallocation.

Yes, one of the most interesting things about working in a JFO are the creative solutions people arrive at. There's a lot of pressure to move things forward as fast as possible without making mistakes or missteps. There will be mistakes, but we try to be moving forward constantly. And always, always keeping disaster survivors front and center. That's our mission. We are there to help the people of Puerto Rico.

One of the best things about deploying is getting to meet people. Even prior to Hurricane Maria making landfall in September, I was in touch with staff at the state cultural agency. But I really started talking to them right afterwards. Finally, months later, after emailing and speaking to them on the phone and having phone calls dropped because of poor phone reception, I was able to travel to Puerto Rico and meet them in person. It's wonderful. Hugs, tears... working together to make things better, to make the institution survive. The reward is being able to see someone and hug them and say, "I'm here for you. I'll do what it takes to help you and your institution."

Since Lori was interviewed, she's been working with an arts recovery expert on a research project seeking to understand the experience of artists, artisans, and arts organizations before and after Hurricane Maria. The information gleaned from questionnaires and focus groups will help explain to the federal and territorial governments—as well as to private foundations, individuals, and the public—the overwhelming impact and cost of Maria on this valuable and vulnerable sector of society.

Read more about Lori and her future plans (hint: they involve bookbinding) at nbss.edu/profiles.



1.



2.



3.



4.

1. A conservator demonstrates how to salvage a fragile wet textile during HEART. Photo by Stacy Bove/Smithsonian Institution.

2. Cultural stewards in Heritage and Emergency Response Training (HEART), a program of HENTF and the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative, pack objects during a collections evacuation exercise. Photo by Stacy Bove/Smithsonian Institution.

3. A home damaged by Hurricane Maria. The category 4 hurricane tore through Puerto Rico on September 20, 2017. FEMA News Photo.

4. Hardwood logs readied for the mill. Photo by William Gould/U.S. Forest Service.

A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

BY R. SCOTT REEDY



VISIT CHARLESTOWN FURNITURE MAKERS

and you might think you've walked into a North Bennet Street School reunion.

Nine graduates of the Cabinet & Furniture Making program are among the community of woodworkers at the two-story Charlestown shop, established in 2012 by David Ambler CF '11.

"Like North Bennet Street School, one of the things we

offer is a culture of excellence," explains David. "There is such a network of people we all have in common through NBSS. And of course, we all learned the same techniques. There's a real enjoyment being among people with shared interests in the valuing of craft."

David not only supports his fellow NBSS alums by renting workspace for them to pursue their craft, he also remains actively involved with the School in multiple ways: as a regular donor to the Annual Fund, an active member of the Board of Directors, and a committee member of the Lives & Livelihoods Campaign.

David provided leadership support for the Campaign through a contribution from the E & L Campbell Family Foundation. This contribution will help grow an endowment that offsets the rising costs of education. In doing so, NBSS will be able to accept the best, brightest, and broadest possible range of students, no matter their financial means.

"North Bennet Street School gave me a gift of an education that set me in a new direction for my life. I'm pleased to be able to give back to the School now," says David.

David developed his own interest in woodworking while an educator at Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center. They taught the Sloyd method, just like NBSS. One day, he discovered a table saw, a bander, and a joiner in the basement of the school. He grew up doing carpentry, and began to use the machinery. This hobby eventually led to the Cambridge Center for Adult Education, where an instructor recommended NBSS.

"I took a Continuing Education class with Judith Hanson CF '95, and ultimately decided to do the Three-Month Furniture Making Intensive with Janet Collins CF '96. David started the full-time Cabinet & Furniture Making program in 2009.

Almost immediately, he began planning for his new professional life. "When I was in school, I got to thinking, where do you go next? How do you get to the next level? I thought if I opened a shop it should be a place that brought together people of different backgrounds, and creating a community of independent custom-furniture makers."

Having makers at different stages of their careers working alongside each other offers a great dynamic, according to David. His shop has young makers who are recent grads, older professionals who keep a bench there for their own woodworking, and some seasoned artisans as well. All are serious in their craft, a prerequisite for space at the Charlestown shop.

"It's often when someone gets a big job that he or she will pull in other makers," says David. "And our Shop Manager Bob Miller CF '11 maintains all the machines and keeps them running well."

"NBSS gave me a gift of an education that set me in a new direction for my life. I'm pleased to be able to give back to the School now."

David has made investments that keep the shop running smoothly. Being a short distance away from the North End, he's also able to keep his long connection to NBSS alive in all kinds of ways. And that's led to collaborations with programs beyond woodworking.

"My wife, Holly, is a pianist and some years ago she inherited a piano from her grandmother. It needed a lot work, so we took it to NBSS. David Betts PT '72, head of the Piano Technology department, and his students repaired it and still tune it to this day. "If I need a book rebound, or if I need a piece of jewelry, I look for a graduate of NBSS," says David. "You can't get better than someone with an NBSS education."

Read more about Charlestown Furniture Makers, and view photos of the amazing space, on page 10 of this issue or at nbss.edu/blog.

Learn more about making a donation to the School at nbss.edu/giving.

QUOTABLE

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Small class sizes, knowledgeable instructors, and fully equipped facilities make NBSS a great learning environment for beginners, hobbyists, and professionals alike. But don't take it from us—read what our students are saying:



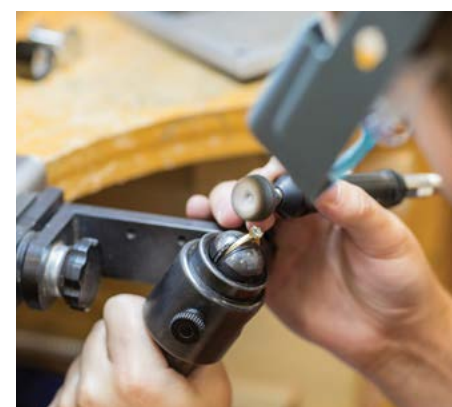
"Outstanding! Our instructor combined an impressive depth of experience with humor and a most approachable personality. I'm surprised how much I was able to learn in two days."



"What a fantastic class. I learned more than I ever imagined and had fun too. Great value for the level of instruction."



"The class was tailored to a wide range of interests and experience. Really, this is one of the best adult ed classes I've taken."



"The instructor and assistant were both top-notch. I look forward to taking another class with her soon."



"I've taken a couple classes at NBSS so far and I have to say, there's an energy there that is infectious. Loved the class and the instructors!"

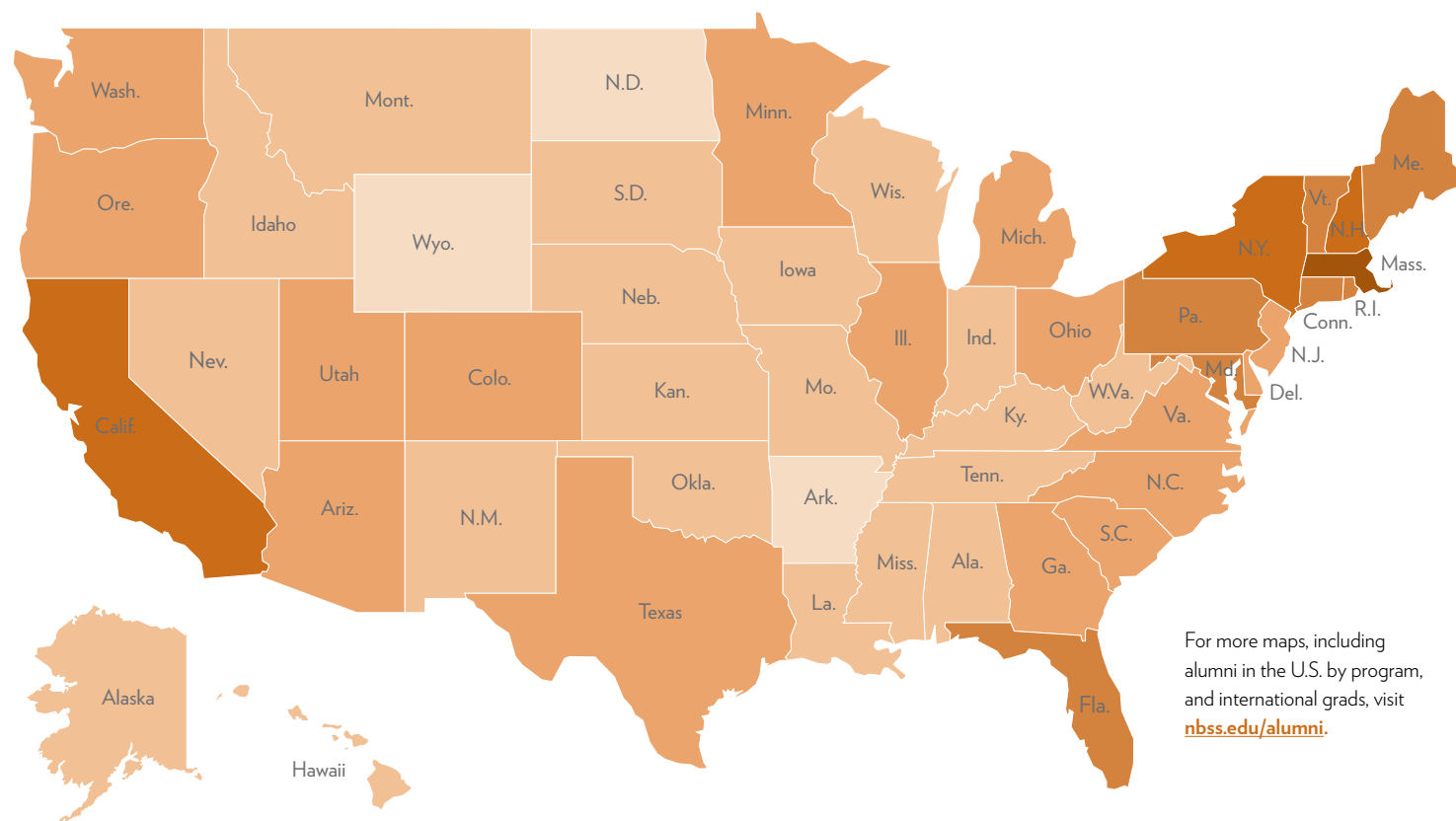
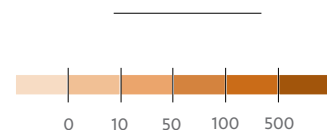


"I would take this class again in a heartbeat! The professionalism, the quality of instruction, the friendliness of the other staff and students... I am glad that there are schools like this out there."

Book Arts & Bookbinding, Woodworking & Carpentry, Jewelry Making, Musical Instruments, & More!
Browse our full schedule of classes, learn about private instruction, or buy a gift certificate at nbss.edu/ce.

YOU ASKED.
WE ANSWERED.

Where do NBSS alumni live?



For more maps, including alumni in the U.S. by program, and international grads, visit nbss.edu/alumni.



Our home state of
Massachusetts has the most
number of alumni, clocking
in at over 1,500!



There are no NBSS grads
(that we know of) in Arkansas,
North Dakota, and Wyoming.



We're seeing more alums
living in California and
Florida than ever before.



Our alumni live
on six continents
(sorry Antarctica)



WORK WITH THE BEST

*Get unique access to our talented community
through the NBSS Jobs & Commissions Board*

North Bennet Street School graduates are trained to produce the highest quality work and are committed to excellence in their craft. Every year, we receive hundreds of requests from those seeking to hire or commission our students/alumni. The diversity of jobs and projects spans a full range of disciplines, including:

- Employing someone full- or part-time for a business, nonprofit, agency, or organization
- Creating, repairing, or restoring furniture, books, jewelry, musical instruments, and more
- Constructing a garage, renovating a space, or adding to a home
- Preserving a historic structure or crafting a structure using historic techniques
- Tuning, repairing, or restoring pianos

Visit nbss.edu/projects to submit your position or project to our Jobs & Commissions Board and have it shared with our community. And don't forget to browse our [Alumni Business Directory](#) to connect with talented craftspeople working in traditional trades around the world.

Upcoming Events

All events take place at NBSS in Boston unless otherwise noted. For more details on these and other great events, visit nbss.edu/calendar.

Rally at the Alley Student & Alumni Bowling Party

Thursday, September 27
Sacco's Bowl-Haven | Somerville, MA

Bookbinding Lecture: Nicky Oliver & Leather Dyeing

Thursday, October 11
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Open House 2018

Friday and Saturday, November 2 & 3

Free and open to the public. Learn more about our unique history, Full-Time programs, Continuing Education classes, and the great community of NBSS students, alumni, faculty, and friends.

23rd Annual New England Fine Furnishings Show

Friday, November 9 –
Sunday, November 11
Waterfire Arts Center | Providence, RI

Presidential Celebration: Honoring Miquel Gómez-Ibáñez

November Date & Location TBA

CraftBoston Holiday

Friday, December 14 –
Sunday, December 16
Hynes Convention Center | Boston, MA

2018 Holiday Party

Thursday, December 20

Find us online

NBSS.EDU | **@NBSSboston**

102

total
graduating
students in 2018

56

graduating
students
already hired*

25

new grads
running their own
small business

13

graduates
furthering their
education

INSIDE: Find out who's employing our 2018 grads!

**As of June 2018, with interviews ongoing*

OPEN HOUSE



**NOVEMBER
2 & 3, 2018**

Learn more about our programs, get
an insider's look at our workspaces, and
get to know our community of students,
alumni, faculty, and friends.

Free and open to the public.

NBSS.EDU/OPENHOUSE

