

Historic Preservation

at University of Mary Washington

Spring 2012

PRES STUDENTS AND ALUMNI VENTURE TO STAUNTON, VA

Lauren McMillan

On October 13th, Erika DeBroekert, Kate Gibson, Professor Doug Sanford from the Historic Preservation Department and I headed to the annual Archeological Society of Virginia Conference. Held in beautiful, historic Staunton, Virginia, the conference gave us the opportunity to listen to research on various archaeological topics, covering everything from pipe stems to projectile points. We were able to hear papers given by UMW alumnae Lauren McMillan ('08) and Adriana Lesiuk ('11), as well as Professor Sanford, who discussed his research on slave housing at Walnut Valley Plantation.

The conference itself was located at the Frontier Culture Museum, an outdoor museum that houses examples of historic 17th-19th century farm houses (some original!) from Europe, Africa, and America. Attending the conference allowed us free access to the grounds so we had the opportunity to explore the farm houses and enjoy the beautiful fall weather. During our trip we also had the ability to walk around downtown Staunton and admire the architecture as well as tour Mary Baldwin College, which has a Historic Preservation minor. On the way back from Staunton we stopped at Grand Caverns and took a tour of one of the most impressive caverns in the world.

Kate, Erika and I had a wonderful time on our trip and appreciate Department of Historic Preservation as well as the Center for Historic Preservation's support in getting us there. We enjoyed hearing current research in archaeology and getting to meet distinguished figures within the field. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience and appreciate the opportunity!



From left to right: Kate Gibson, Lauren McMillan, Adriana Lesiuk, Erika DeBroekert



Some hogs in the mud down in Staunton, Virginia

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Loyal Readers of the Historic Preservation Newsletter,

It is with great pleasure that I speak to you now from UMW's Historic Preservation department in Combs Hall. It is the beginning of December and the last week of classes for the fall semester. Assorted candy and homemade goodies cover the student aide desks. The smell of overly-roasted coffee wafts from the department kitchen. Coats, cardigans and soggy umbrellas dangle from the coat rack. Mellow phone tones occasionally chirp like digital birds. Professor Stanton, in perfect form, surely approaches a Guinness Record for power-walking with a mug of coffee in hand. With the expert balance of an Olympic gymnast, not a single drop sloshes over the lip of the mug. Professor Spencer darts from his office to the drafting lab, from the drafting lab to the 205 site, and from the 205 site back to his office in a circuitous loop a la Fred Trolley. Professor Turdean entertains a long line of students anxiously awaiting the opportunity to turn in a museum paper, ask a question about the final, or just sit and chat for a few minutes before class. Professor Smith hunkers down in her dimly lit office behind a mountain of National Register Nominations, using some '80s hair metal as musical motivation to power through endless grading. Professor Sanford's office remains dark and empty, but fear not; by the time you read this, he has returned from sabbatical and reacquainted himself with both lab and lecture hall. Yes, this is UMW Historic Preservation and I am home.

Before you tackle the rest of this newsletter, I feel as though it is my duty to inform you of some big changes coming to your beloved newsletter. First, we're going to be moving away from the school-sponsored design service and we'll be publishing our newsletter completely in-house. That means from inception to design to printing and mailing, it's all going to be happening right here in the department. This way, we'll be able to assume complete creative control over our product and ensure that the newsletter you get is representative of our best foot forward.

In line with our move to a completely redesigned newsletter, we're also going to be making a change to the format of the newsletter. In support of the environment and the department's move toward paperless functionality, the newsletter will be completely paperless. Instead, we'll mail an e-newsletter that we design in-house for all of our readers. If you're a staunch traditionalist who feels there's simply no replacement for the physical weight and feel of a good newsletter, don't be alarmed; we are planning to print a small number of newsletters. If you would like one, please contact Sharon Hale at shale@umw.

edu and ask for a physical newsletter. Otherwise, please give Sharon Hale your e-mail address so that we can send you our upcoming paperless newsletter.

That's all from me for now. I must get back to work on final projects and papers. I hope your semester has been as exciting and stimulating as ours here at the department of Historic Preservation. We look forward to giving you another great newsletter.

Sincerely,

Daniel Messplay '12

Historic Preservation Newsletter Editor

Historic Preservation Senior Class Representative

US CUTS FUNDING, UNESCO SHUTS DOWN

Daniel Messplay

Amidst the direct negotiations between the United States, Israel and Palestinian people, UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization), convened and voted to grant Palestine full membership to their council.

Big deal, right? Wrong. US Legislation dating from the '90s mandates a complete cut-off of US funding to any UN agency that accepts Palestine as a full member. Additionally, the United States provides UNESCO with approximately 25% of their total budget. To put this into context, the US was supposed to send in their final payment of the year soon after the council meeting: \$60,000,000.

UNESCO's impact on international preservation efforts is well-known. The organization spearheads thousands of preservation projects worldwide, from the protection of terraced rice fields in east Asia to the conservation of Viking architecture in Northern Europe. Headquartered in Paris, France, its 195-country council meets several times a year to propose new projects.

Further, two other organizations fall under the umbrella of UNESCO support- ICCROM and ICOMOS.

UNESCO's vote to recognize Palestine is nothing but a political move. This is likely the first in a series of moves by other international organizations to follow suit and grant



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Palestine independent rights. The issue here is that once again, historic preservation becomes collateral damage; a pawn in the chess game of international politics. Member states of UNESCO knew full well the ramifications of such a vote well before it was conducted. In fact, the US stood up during the meeting and warned the international body of the potential consequences of such a vote. This isn't a matter of choice so much as a matter of US Law. Despite these warnings, the council voted and accepted Palestine as a member 107-14, with 52 abstentions.



*UNESCO Headquarters
in Paris, France*

Perhaps the worst part about this is the public support for this move from US citizens. Outside of preservation circles, the general consensus appears to be that, in a time of fiscal crisis, saving sixty million dollars is a step in the right direction, even if it's taken from an organization like UNESCO.



The new president of UNESCO, Katalin Bogyay

PRES STUDENTS HEAD TO TRUST CONFERENCE IN BUFFALO, NY

Suzanna Parmalee

So we made it to Buffalo...

For those of you, like myself, who know little else about the state of New York other than what lies within the city limits of the Big Apple, the realization that there is more to the state than the flashing lights of Broadway, is quite the discovery. An Ohio native, when I first heard that this year's National Trust Conference was scheduled to be held in Buffalo, New York, I must admit that I was slightly skeptical



*A startling, slightly dystopian looking
high-rise in Buffalo, NY*

would at least be surrounded by fellow preservation nerds for half of a week, and what more could a young, aspiring historic preservationist ask for?

After stepping off my plane and out into a cold and gloomy climate, my skepticism once again began overpowering my mind. Those thoughts, however, were quickly pushed from my head as my comrades and I rounded the corner of the terminal to make our exit and found ourselves greeted by a large sign reading something to the extent of, "Welcome to Buffalo National Trust Conference Members!". It was then that I knew it was going to be a good trip.

Our first day in Buffalo is barely more than a whirlwind in my mind. After somehow managing to flag down a shuttle to our airport hotel, we checked in, and then, less than fifteen minutes later, found ourselves in a car en route to Niagara Falls. Although having witnessed the wonder of the falls many years prior on a family vacation, I was happy to find that their magnificence has not changed as time had gone on. Unfortunately, I cannot say the same for the greater Niagara Falls State Park area, which we found to be a dreary and depressing conglomerate of mismatched and under kept buildings and food stands. Little did I know at the time I was forming this thought that it would come back to visit me a few days later...which of course now brings me to the conference.

So we took our pictures at the falls, some of my fellow trippers (other Mary Wash students who ventured to the Empire State) got a little too close and took a nice bath in the salty spray, then we enjoyed lunch at one of those local hot dog dives you might see Guy Fieri visit on the Food Network, and finally headed off to make our first appearance at the conference which constituted getting all snazzed up to practice our schmoozing techniques at the welcoming banquet held in the nifty old abandoned Statler hotel across the street from the conference center.

in my thoughts. I mean, who knew there were other cities in the state in which such a conference could be held? Certainly not I. So when the opportunity arose to journey north, I decided to jump at the chance- I mean if nothing else, I

As I continued to tour the city and attended sessions at the conference in the days after, I came to the realization that this building (the Statler hotel) really personified the city of Buffalo in addition to other Rust Belt cities such as Detroit and Cleveland- all of these cities booming in the first half of the 20th century, and having almost died entire by the time the year 2000 came around. And this fact is a huge shame really, I mean, when you look at Buffalo for example, and picture what it used to be back in its prime, it's absolutely incredible. The magnitude of different types of exemplary architectural design, ranging from Louis Sullivan's Guaranty Building, to Frederick Law Olmstead's numerous parks to Frank Lloyd Wright's Martin House, just to name a few examples...absolutely incredible. It's heartbreaking to see them in their current rundown state, the Martin House, for example, consisting of no more than a shell when restoration started back in the early 2000s. But if you can close your eyes and imagine what they used to be, yes I'm going to use the word again...it would be absolutely incredible.

Alright, so back to the conference...over the course of the two and a half day conference I attended a variety of sessions led by people from all over the country. The first session I attended on Thursday morning was on the topic of budget cuts in America's State Parks. It was during this session that my trip to Niagara Falls came back to visit me, as a large portion of the talk focused on the lack of funding available to properly maintain the facilities located at this park- a problem faced by parks all over the country. Designed as a forum for other park employees to share stories of how they were coping with similar situations, it was

interesting to hear some of the unique ideas they that were being formulated in order to try to counterbalance the absence of money in park's budgets.



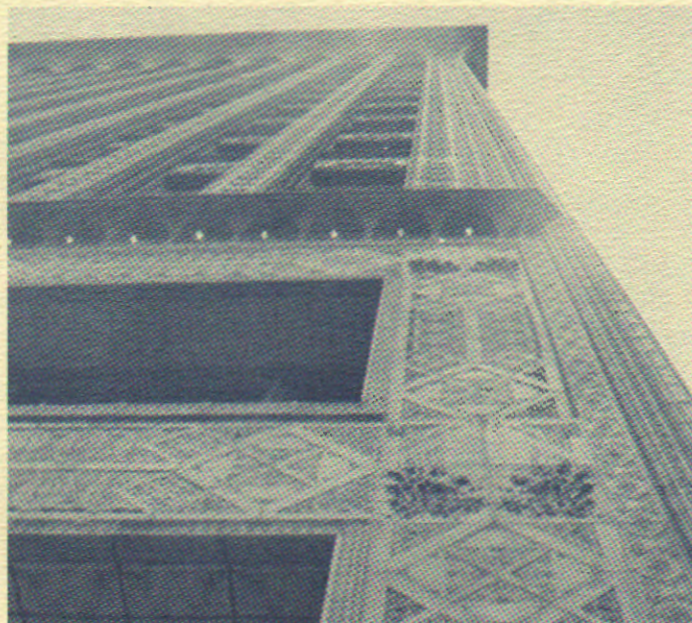
Juniors Suzanna Parmalee and Sarah Sanders pose for the camera during the conference

Some of the other sessions that I chose to attend discussed topics such as: architectural salvage and its ethical standards, private-sector organizations established to provide historical home owners with loans needed to conduct restorations on their homes, a discussion of modern architecture in my home state of Ohio, a before and after session about revitalizing old hotels in large metropolitan areas, in addition to a session about the future of employment in the preservation world. While all of these sessions were very intriguing, introducing me to many topics not included within the curriculum at Mary Washington, it was the employment session that I felt

personally had the most impact as I sit now and reflect back on the conference. Yes, do not get me wrong, sitting and listening to professionals discuss the recent and future happenings of the preservation was extremely interesting and informative, but it was the simple session on jobs that really hit home for me.

Having slightly less than two years left to spend inside the protective walls of the Mary Washington community, I have recently discovered that the time has come for me to finally start putting together all of the puzzle pieces that I have collected over the past few years- I have to decide what I want to do with my life. Sitting and listening to professionals discuss the job market and where they see the field going in the next decade or so was slightly daunting, yet was something that needed to happen. Throughout the duration of the conference, I received the opportunity to speak with numerous graduate students and professionals about their life experiences and collect advice and thoughts about the tracks that they decided to follow and where that has landed them. It's a very intimidating thought, making the decision of what you want to do with the rest of your life- it changes absolutely everything...and it's a decision that requires much reflection and consideration. And while I would like to say that attending the National Trust Conference made a light bulb go off and suddenly everything is clear, that isn't entirely the case- it's just not that easy I've come to learn. The conference did however really start to put the gears in motion and really gave me a few things to think about over the upcoming months...

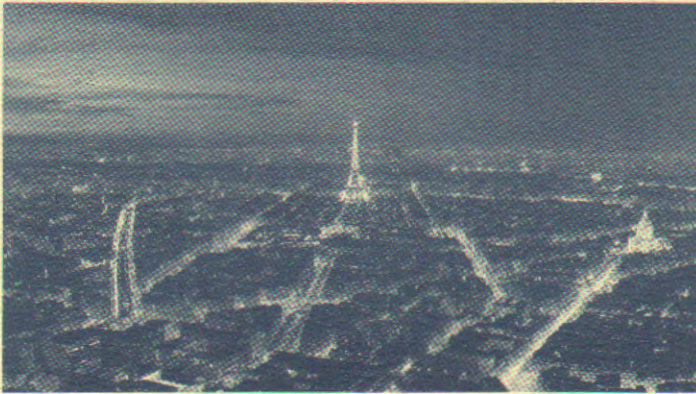
This being said, when looking back, it's exciting to think about everything that I learned and all of the inspiration I received from spending a few days in Buffalo...it can only make me wonder what Spokane holds in store for me next year...



Extricate detailing on the facade of a building in Buffalo, NY

AU REVOIR! HISTORIC PRESERVATION SUMMER STUDYABROAD IN PARIS, FRANCE

Daniel Messplay



Paris, France at dusk

From July 1st-28th, 2012, fourteen UMW students will accompany Historic Preservation's own Dr. Andrea Livi Smith to Paris, France for a 3.5 week, 3-credit study abroad course. According to the Paris Abroad site (andrealivismith.com/teaching/hisp470), the course "aims to educate students in the architectural and planning history and historic preservation practice in Paris, France". Dr. Smith, a Paris-born French native and fluent speaker, reassures her students that fluency in French is not necessary for the course. Students will visit several significant historic sites in Paris and learn about the ways they relate to planning, preservation, conservation, architectural history and preservation practice in the United States.

Professor Smith understands the extreme costs involved for study abroad courses. Knowing this, she worked to cut the costs down to a bare minimum for students. At the formal information session, Professor Smith also offered up some personal finance lessons for students looking to save even more during their trip. She discussed how strict budgeting and spending habits can make the trip reasonable for anybody. And for an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity like this, who could resist?

In addition to the formal, historic preservation-related lessons, Professor Smith promised to expose students to the absolute best that France has to offer. Because Dr. Smith grew up in Paris, she knows of the best spots for eating, drinking and spending leisure time... which there will be plenty of. Classes do not begin until 1pm every day, giving students ample time to travel on their own and explore the city. In addition, weekends are left free for students, with optional excursions

to other areas of France available to students.

Safe travels to Professor Smith and her study abroad class, and we look forward to hearing about your experience when you return. Au revoir!



The beautifully wide avenues and rows of mansard roofs in Paris, France

CHRISTOPHER BETTS VISITS UMW

Daniel Messplay



*Chris Betts posing with
Professor Michael Spencer*

For a week in November, 2011, UMW Historic Preservation students were afforded the opportunity to hear from Christopher Betts, a renowned architectural conservationist from the United Kingdom. Chris, an acting partner and head of the residential sector of Purcell Miller

Tritton, one of the UK's most prestigious conservation firms, has over 25 years of personal experience in his specialized craft.

During his visit, Chris spoke to students on two separate occasions. His first talk occurred at 5:00pm on Tuesday, November 8th. During this lecture, Chris provided students with an inside look at the day-to-day activities of Purcell Miller Tritton and the kinds of projects he leads. Chris is actively involved in a wide range of conservation and planning-related projects, dealing with historic preservation planning, architectural conservation and renovation, and heritage tourism and site management.



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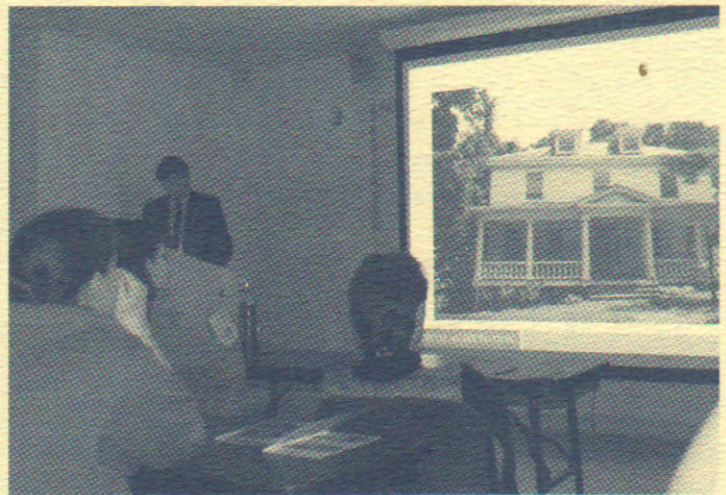
Startling contrasts arose between the UK and the US regarding general attitudes towards historic preservation. In the United States historic preservation is often regarded in a negative light, such as an extraneous money-waster for rich hobbyists looking for something to do in their spare time. Other times it is depicted as an uninformed hippy-friendly protest movement to stop the natural development and progress of a town or city.

In the United Kingdom, however, preservation is highly integrated into the general planning process of a particular province. The people do not view preservation as a nuisance, but rather view themselves as the natural stewards of historic buildings. They realize and welcome the idea that the historic built environment is something to respect and cherish. Protecting and preserving these buildings is therefore an important consideration for the citizens.

On November 9th, 2011, Chris visited the HISP 360 International Preservation class. During an open question and answer session, students were able to ask Chris about his work, the political process of preservation in the United Kingdom, and the UK's general characteristics that enable preservation to be so welcomed by the public.

Obtaining an international perspective on the historic preservation and planning process was an invaluable opportunity to students. We thank Professor Michael Spencer for setting

up the exchange. We also thank Christopher Betts for taking the time to visit and speak with students. We hope to reconnect soon!



Chris Betts shares one of his residential projects with students

UPDATE: Christopher Betts, after returning to the UK, is now officially offering a Summer internship from Purcell Miller Tritton to a UMW HISP student. The internship will occur from June 1st to July 31st, 2012. What a great opportunity! Good luck to all applicants!