Historic Preservation at University of Mary Washington

“Brief” News from the Chair

University of Mary Washington alumni participation at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology

Professor Doug Sanford

It is a pleasure and a proud moment to note the significant participation of several historic preservation graduates and another UMW alumnus at the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) conference in January 2010, near Jacksonville, Fla. The SHA conference is a national gathering of historical and underwater archaeologists.

I presented a paper stemming largely from our recent National Endowment for the Humanities grant project on slave housing in Virginia. In a session entitled “Contributions to New World African Diaspora Archaeology,” the paper presented before mine was by Brad Hatch '07, who discussed an interpretation of storage pits within slave quarter sites. This research originated from Brad's master's thesis at the College of William and Mary. Currently, Brad is a doctoral candidate in anthropology at the University of Tennessee.

Earlier in the conference, Hope Smith '05 presented a paper on the Mt. Pleasant site at Montpelier, President James Madison's plantation home in Orange County. Hope, who's employed with Montpelier's archaeological staff, is applying to graduate programs in anthropology. Lauren McMillan '08, who is in the master's program in anthropology at East Carolina University, presented a paper on her thesis research concerning the use of a key dating technique common to historic period sites. Kerri Barile '94 presented a paper on African American households in a session honoring Dr. Leland Ferguson of the University of South Carolina. A leading figure within American historical archaeology, Ferguson recently retired from his academic position. Kerri obtained her master's degree at the University of South Carolina, followed by the completion of a PhD in anthropology at the University of Texas-Austin. Since then, Dr. Barile has owned and operated her own cultural resource management business, Dovetail Cultural Resource Group, here in Fredericksburg.

On the conference’s last day, Andrew Wilkins '06 presented a paper on soil chemistry applications for a site at Stratford Hall Plantation, the focus of our department’s archaeological field school in recent years. This study developed out of Andrew’s master’s thesis at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. Andrew joined Brad Hatch this past fall as a doctoral candidate in anthropology at the University of Tennessee. Sarah Heffner '05 presented both a poster on evidence for Chinese folk medicine on archaeological sites in the American West and a paper addressing female fashion and personal adornment in the same region. Sarah, who completed her master’s in anthropology at the University of Idaho-Moscow, is a doctoral candidate in anthropology at the University of Nevada-Reno.

Finally, attending the SHA conference were Theresa Hicks '07 and Kira Runkle '09. Teresa is a master’s candidate in history (underwater archaeology and conservation) at East Carolina University. Kira was an anthropology major who took the archaeological field school this past summer at Stratford and then served on our research project at the Walnut Valley Plantation site, part of Chippokes State Park. Kira currently works for the archaeological staff at Mount Vernon, the home of President George Washington.
Ciao Fredericksburg!
Gregory DiSahno

Rome: the Eternal City, and my temporary home while I study abroad. As an art history and historic preservation student, studying in Rome was an easy decision, for it is a city where one cannot walk five minutes without stumbling upon world-class museums or remnants of past civilizations.

This semester, I am enrolled in numerous on-site art history courses where I have the opportunity to visit many of Rome's museums. I decided to visit a more modern museum: the Ara Pacis.

The Ara Pacis, or Altar of Peace, is a classical style altar constructed for Augustus in 13 B.C. to celebrate the peace that his wars had brought to the Roman Empire. Over the years, it was buried by tufa silt and was not uncovered until mid-14th century. The fragments were later reconstructed and in 1938, a whole altar was moved to the center of Rome under the fascist rule of Benito Mussolini. Mussolini had a building constructed to protect the Ara Pacis, but as time progressed, the building proved to be susceptible to the corrosive powers of the city, including increasing automobile traffic, gases, vegetation, humidity, and acids rain. American architect Richard Meier designed the new museum, which could be the first modern architectural work to be built in the historic part of Rome since the fall of Fascism.

Although Richard Meier's architecture was designed and planned with the primary focus on preservation and conservation of the monument, the new museum's debut stirred up much negative debate. Many felt that the museum's modern white, window-filled façade provided too stark a contrast to the overwhelmingly baroque style of the surrounding region. The Roman mayor was even contemplating demolishing Meier's museum. I can happily say that popular support kept the museum standing.

Upon first glance of the structure, my original feelings were relatively negative and directly correlated with most of the common concerns of the Roman public. Upon further study, however, I realized that the design actually worked. I thought the museum's windowed apertures stood stark and odd in their relation to the historic environment, but as I entered the building, I realized the natural light and the modern architecture acted as a powerful link, uniting the old and the new.

As a museum goer, there is nothing quite like the Museum dell'Ara Pacis. If you are ever in Rome, it is a must see. Ciao a tutti!

New Equipment, New Possibilities
Professor Michael Spencer

With my first semester here at the University of Maryland Washington College, I was excited to see what I could learn about the field of building forensics. Many sessions at the University involved discussions about the future of the discipline of historic preservation, and the field's ever-evolving nature.

Our team on the steps of our house in the upper Ninth Ward.

Last spring, Jackie Wright, Erin Gleennon and myself were part of a group of UMW students (including Dan Marshall, Aimible Hillburn, Ian Pope, Cat Cox and Amanda Shumaker) and community members who spent spring break working on a Katrina devastated home in the Upper Ninth Ward. Our trip occurred four years after the storm, and the part of New Orleans we spent a week in still looked like a ghost town, in which time had stopped in August 2005. The house we worked on was a beautiful 1900's double shotgun home that had been completely gutted per regulation for any building affected by the toxic flood water (which was all of them). Everyday from 8 AM to 3:30 PM our team scrapped paint, cut and installed new siding, caulked window and door frames, primed the exterior and prepared the interior for the next stage in the rehabilitation process. It was hard work, but a lot of fun.

Working on that house gave me a whole new view of historic preservation; we were doing more than giving Miss Shannon (the homeowner) her life back, we were rehabilitating a historic vernacular structure that could have been torn down, and we were helping to keep the traditions and character of a historic city alive. Never have I seen historic preservation in action like I did that week in the Crescent City. New Orleans is one of the most culturally vibrant cities in the United States; its history, architectural traditions, folklore and culture run deeper than the Mississippi, and the preserve: rehabilitating efforts are enabling everything that is distinctively New Orleans to carry on into the future. Rebuilding New Orleans is no longer front page news, but the need for help is still there. As preservationists, it is our duty to protect, rebuild and preserve the built environment and its cultural heritage; what we do in our work. New Orleans still needs our help, so step up to the plate Preservationists and put your passion into action. After all, historic preservation is more than column hugging.

For information on how you can help, visit The Preservation Resources Center of New Orleans online at www.preservationapp.org or call 1-800-442-1002. To check out the group we used, EDOLA Community Services, at http://www.edsa.org/volunteer/volunteer.html.
11 Most Endangered Historic Places of 2009
Melissa Ford

Anually, the National Trust for Historic Preservation releases their eleven most endangered historic places of the year. For 2009, many of the sites listed were able to receive help because of their inclusion in 2008 as the centerpiece of Century City and has been a prominent Los Angeles landmark over since. Over the years, it has housed celebrities, politicians, and world dignitaries, including both Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan.

Next Updates: Next Century Associates purchased the building in May of 2008. Despite $3.6 million facelift and newly renovated meeting and conference areas, which are amongst the most desirable convention spaces in the city, the owner wants to demolish the building and replace it with two towers.

Miami Marine Stadium (Key Biscayne, Miami, Florida)
The stadium, built in 1963, was torn down in 2006 from poured concrete and features a cantilevered fold-out roof. A favorite among the locals for everything from rock concerts, to political rallies, to water skiing competitions, the stadium was damaged by Hurricane Andrew and closed. Despite plans for repair, the stadium fell into deterioration and neglect and became a prime target for development.

Bosco Community Development of Boston has a tentative agreement to buy the site and transform into 101 apartments, a museum, a self-guided walking tour, and a 1.5-acre public park.

Memorial Bridge (Billeton, Maine & Porthmout, New Hampshire)
The first major "vertical lift" bridge in the eastern U.S., this landmark spans the Penobscot River, economically connecting the historic coastal towns of Porthmout, N.H. and Kittery, ME. Dating back to the 1920s, it became the official state memorial to World War I servicemen and was later used for the prototype of nuclear boats. Lacking maintenance and preference for replacement has led to the destruction of a historic bridge every two or three days.

Updates: Maine and New Hampshire agreed to full rehabilitation of the bridge, but questions on how to pay for the repairs. Due to advocacy from communities in both states, Maine decided to join New Hampshire in applying for federal stimulus funding. The bridge is scheduled to be closed for repairs on October 16, 2009.

Mount Taylor (Grant, New Mexico)
This mountain has been the site for as many as 30 Native American tribes. Unfortunately, it also sits atop one of the richest reserves of uranium ore in the country. High demand for the ore has resulted in interest in mining the deposits, an action that would threaten the mountain itself, and also could contaminate the Rio San Jose, the Acoma tribe's primary water source.

Updates: The New Mexico Cultural Properties Review Committee is set to appoint Mount Taylor on the State Register of Cultural Properties.

Human Services Center (Tanent, South Dakota)
Formerly the South Dakota Hospital for the Insane, the center is the oldest public institution in the state. It was originally created by Dr. Leonard Mead with his new idea to construct homes that would be therapeutically beneficial for patients rather than the wards and asylums used at that time. It consists of a 65-acre campus built between 1882 and 1942, and features neoclassical, Art Deco, Italianate, Prairie, and Neo-Knesissence design.

Current Efforts: The project requires funds to begin the demolition of selected historic buildings in 2007, and then in 2008.

Cast-Iron Architecture of Galveston (Texas)
Galveston's 12-block Strand, which consists of late-19th-century Greek Revival and Italianate buildings with cast-iron storefronts, is one of the largest collections of historic commercial buildings in the country. In 2008, the buildings were considerably damaged by Hurricane Ike and suffer structural problems and demolition by neglect.

Updates: Galveston City Council has given $70,000 in new Housing Community Development Block Grant Disaster Funding to help fund restoration.

The Manhattan Project's Enola Gay Hangar (Wendover, Utah)
First built in 1940, it was here, at the Wendover Air Force Base that the Army Air Force assembled prototype atomic bombs and trained pilots to fly aircraft training as part of the Manhattan Project (the program to develop a nuclear bomb). The Enola Gay was fixed and put on display in Washington D.C., but the hangar that stored it is in a critical state of disrepair. It requires between $55 and $60 million to transform it into a public museum.

Updates: The Department of Energy designated eight sites as "Signature Facilities of the Manhattan Project" to be included in a Manhattan Project National Historical Park. Only one site has been restored. The others are now threatened with demolition.

As a preservationist, I was absolutely thrilled. I almost forgot how much I have missed the thrill of running a business and the perks of working at an office. As part of my work here I wanted to ensure that I would have opportunities to interact with the public, so I took a few training classes and now I am certified to give tours of the Enola Gay and the domains.

For several of us who have worked at history or art museums, we often place emphasis on the correct interpretation of the objects that we showcase. But here at the Holocaust Museum so much of the interpretation comes from our living collection, the survivors of the Holocaust and other genocides. I have been able to interact with colleagues from the Exhibition Design department, who shared with me how they seek to incorporates survivor's voices when developing new exhibits. It is something that I have not dealt with and very interesting at American history museums.

What the Historic Preservation Student Aide Have Learned From Their Jobs
Melissa Ford, Chris Young, and Emily Morton

The moment you hear the crinkle of the candy bag, run for the dish as fast as you can, especially if you want a Western. If historic preservation doesn't work, Melissa can always join a culinary school. Advanced Services Librarian Betty Weideman at the Colorado Mountain College offers a degree in outdoor recreation leadership with a certificate in professional fly fishing. Chris hates it when the fly hanger by one piece of tape. It takes two student aide to figure out how to attach a reel to a Lincoln's last building, and their solution will be to cheat (no, that's not tape holding those pieces on...). The scanner sounds like a dying animal. How to use the frightening database computer without breaking it/erasing all the files. Emily loves the smell of Mr. Hake's office. Chris thinks it feels good to get up before noon... sometimes. How to fly in directions to any place in Combs less than 30 seconds. Where the professors are every minute of the day. Born, born, BCOM! You can make a conversation about weather last for an hour. Everybody's face, but nobody's name.
Federal agency representatives; editing and archiving video footage from around the country; and setting up a blog about the day to day efforts of a NAGPRA coordinator in Michigan, I am still moved and amazed by the power of bringing something or someone that was always yours home.

Working with tribes across the country as they make their way through the NAGPRA process, the answer to “What is it that you want to keep?” has a deeper spiritual meaning. I realized that when Professor Morton was working on a Buddhist monument, he didn’t have to completely understand the belief system that created the monument. All that he needed to know was that it was important to that group of people. I have discovered that the question “What is it that you want to keep?” can open up a deeper more meaningful part of preservation. Historic Preservation is about helping people to hang on to their way of life, their land, their ancestors, and their story.

As preservationists, we are armed with the planning tools, the documentation skills, the ability to listen, and the knowledge that a community needs to understand its cultural heritage.

I am not a cowboy or a Native American, but I have learned to be an advocate for helping people keep the things that are most important to them.

For more information about the NAGPRA, visit www.nps.gov/history/nagpra. Also, check out Eric Hemenway’s blog at www.reparationspecialist.wordpress.com.

### Department Student Workers 2009-2010

**Senior Representative**  
Laura Hoemer

**Junior Representative**  
Adriana Lesick

**Archaeology Lab Aides**  
Elizabeth Fedorowicz  
Katherine Hemmert

**Department Student Aides**  
Melissa Ford  
Emily Morton  
Chris Young

**Newsletter Editor**  
Melissa Ford

---

**HISP Alumni Updates**

Dean Doerrfeld ’91 continues his CRM work for R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates in Frederick, Md. Of late, Dean has been involved with projects that relate to the Cold War Era for the Department of Defense.

Kristine Chase ’06 recently completed her master’s degree in historic preservation at the Savannah College of Art and Design. While working part time, she’s seeking a “real job” in the field.

Irene Frankosky ’07 finished her MSc in Archaeological Science at Bradford University in the United Kingdom. She hopes to continue for a doctorate, but she is currently job hunting there in the British Isles.

Kathleen OShea ’06 has moved from North Carolina to the master’s program in historic preservation at the University of Vermont. She still continues to edit and produce her online preservation newsletter “Preservation in Pink,” so check it out online.

Katherine “KD” Klepper ’06 has finished her graduate work at the University of Virginia, obtaining both a master’s degree in architectural history and in urban and environmental planning. She now serves as a cultural resources manager for J.M. Walker Associates, Inc., with her current work focused on Fort Monroe, Va.

Leslie Leffke ’05 has a new last name, Brian, reflecting her marital status as of this past September. In May 2009, she obtained a master of architecture degree from Texas A&M University, along with a certificate in historic preservation. She worked at Fort Monroe, Va. as well, and she recently moved to New Orleans, where her husband is stationed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

---

**Historic Preservation Club News**

**Laura Hoemer**

Historic Preservation Club has had a busy Spring. We kicked off the semester with the Victorian Ball themed "A Royal Affair: Celebrating the Life of Queen Victoria." We danced the night away to all the traditional dances including "Soldier’s Joy," the "Virginia Reel" and...the "Macarena?" Regardless of how that 20th-century dance found its way into the evening, it was tons of fun and Allison Godart did a wonderful job organizing it! Our first day trip to Old Town Alexandria got moved out in January, but we were able to reschedule and had a fantastic time! We also visited the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and headed west to Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia! For spring trip, we drove to North Carolina to spend the weekend visiting historic sites, tracking down pirates, and taking a polar plunge at the Outer Banks. Spring Event was a little different this year with a geo-caching scavenger hunt of downtown Fredericksburg and other fun preservation activities. Over the course of the semester we had a game night, a bad preservation movie night and many fun themed meetings that made this spring semester one to remember.

I’d like to thank all of the wonderful Preservation Club officers who did a fantastic job running the club this year. I could not have done it without you all. I’d also love to say thank you to all of the club members for coming out to the events, trips and meetings; we always had such great turnout, so thanks to you too. Lastly, congratulations to Drew Kallal and Rachel Frederick who won first place in the Gingerbread House Contest in December with their graham cracker rendition of Frank Lloyd Wright’s “Falling Water.” It was fantastic!

---

**Congratulations to the 2010 Scholarship Winners!**

President: Laura Hoemer  
Vice President: Erin Glennon  
Secretary: Katherine Stimson  
Treasurer: Tara Lescault  
Publicity Chair: Cameron Henry  
Ghost Wall Chair: Rebecca Bruner, Katie Hummel, Ginger Brothers  
Victorian Ball Chair: Allison Godart  
Spring Event Chairs: Jessica Focht, Hannah Ridker