#### University of Vermont ScholarWorks @ UVM

Historic Preservation Program Newsletter

College of Arts and Sciences

Fall 2016

#### **Historic Preservation Program Newsletter**

Historic Preservation Program. University of Vermont. Historic Preservation Program.

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uvm.edu/hpnewsletter

Part of the Historic Preservation and Conservation Commons

#### **Recommended Citation**

Historic Preservation Program., "Historic Preservation Program Newsletter" (2016). *Historic Preservation Program Newsletter*. 10.

https://scholarworks.uvm.edu/hpnewsletter/10

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Arts and Sciences at ScholarWorks @ UVM. It has been accepted for inclusion in Historic Preservation Program Newsletter by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks @ UVM. For more information, please contact donna.omalley@uvm.edu.

Fall 2016, Volume 23



# UVM HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

# UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM HISTORY DEPARTMENT - WHEELER HOUSE - BURLINGTON, VERMONT

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

Rokeby Museum page 1

> Greetings page 2

NICHOLSON HOUSE PAGE 3

Summer Internships page 4

HISTORIC HARRISVILLE PAGE 6

Historic New England Field School page 8

> HABS VISIT PAGE 9

Second Year Class page 10

INCOMING CLASS PAGE 12

1920s Burlington page 14 ROKEBY MUSEUM RECOGNITION EVENT BY BARBARA BOSWORTH



A major success story of the University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program was celebrated when students, faculty, and members of the larger Vermont preservation community gathered at Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh on April 27. Home to the Robinson family from 1793 to 1961, the farm complex is a National Historic Landmark because of the family's well-documented work for the Abolitionist movement before the Civil War.

Before touring the site, the students and their professors Thomas Visser and Robert McCullough had lunch with the Rokeby staff. Jane Williamson, the museum's director (a 1993 graduate of the UVM preservation program), discussed the process of gaining National Historic Landmark designation for the museum. Extensive archives make the Rokeby one of the country's best-documented historic sites related to the Underground Railroad and the Abolitionist movement, and the farmhouse still contains the Robinson family's possessions.

Members of Rokeby's board of directors, employees, supporters, and volunteers later joined the UVM group for an event looking back at 30 years of partnership between the museum and the university. Professor Visser called the

#### **GREETINGS FROM WHEELER HOUSE**

Welcome to the 2016 edition of the UVM Historic Preservation Program Newsletter.

With this year marking the fiftieth anniversary of the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act by the United States Congress, it seems only suitable to reflect a bit on the history of preservation in America. But as we celebrate the anniversary of the collective efforts that established this important legislative milestone, let us not forget one profoundly influential American-Canadian preservation leader born a century ago in 1916, the late Jane Jacobs.

Through her powerfully insightful words in The Death and Life of Great American Cities published in 1961, Jane Jacobs, the perceptive observer, challenged the maledominated, suit-coated, conformist mentality that was threatening to destroy so much of the livability and heritage of North American cities through so-called "urban renewal."

It was Jane Jacobs who wrote, "Cities need old buildings so badly it is impossible for vigorous street and districts to grow without them. By old buildings I mean not museumpiece old buildings, not old buildings in an excellent and expensive state of rehabilitation-although these make fine ingredients-but also a good lot of plain, ordinary, low-value old buildings, including some rundown old buildings."

By courageously standing up to the domineering

Julia Grey

Ben Halev

planning dogma and vested interests that promoted overscaled, big-money developments, Jane Jacobs recognized the fundamental importance of retaining human-scaled neighborhoods, sidewalks, parks, diversity, mixed uses, and small blocks to sustain the social vitality and success of cities.

Jane Jacobs called on readers to "look about" to see how heavily subsidized banks, chain stores, and supermarkets located in expensive new buildings while "hundreds of ordinary enterprises, necessary to the safety and public life of streets and neighborhoods, and apparently appreciated for their convenience and personal quality, can make out successfully in old buildings, but are inexorably slain by the high overhead of new construction."

And noting the inherent financial risks of new construction, it was Jane Jacobs who also said, "Old ideas can sometimes use new buildings. New ideas must use old buildings."

So as we reflect on the history of preservation in North America and as we consider the challenges and opportunities of the future, let's take a break from our daily digital deluge and find some quiet time to read (or re-read!) the wise words of Jane Jacobs.

> Professor Thomas D. Visser, Director, UVM Historic Preservation Program

UVM HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Editor-in-Chief:

Thomas D. Visser

Managing Editors: Ben Haley

Liz King

**Content Editors:** 

Liz King

Austin White

Layout Editors:

**Photographers:** Julia Grey Dan Rhode Austin White

**Photography Editors:** Liz King Dan Rhode

Contributors: Barbara Bosworth, Jake Collins, Adrienne Dickerson, Gabrielle Fernandez, William Grenier, Julia Grey, Emma Haggerty, Ben Haley, Liz King, Jessie McNabb, Dan Rhode, Austin White

## NICHOLSON HOUSE RESTORATION RESEARCH



Nicholson House after restoration

Long covered with white aluminum siding, the exterior of the historic Nicholson House on the University of Vermont campus has been restored to its historic colors with research assistance by UVM historic preservation students and faculty. At the request of the UVM Physical Plant, students in Professor Visser's Architectural Conservation I course sampled accessible exterior surfaces as a class project. By examining numerous cross-sections of paint samples under digital and UV microscopes in the UVM Historic Preservation Lab, they determined that the base coat of paint on the clapboards was originally a yellowish ivory, trim and porch elements were white, and window sashes were black. Physical and photographic evidence suggested that these colors were applied after the original circa 1809 Federal-style house had been greatly expanded in the 1890s with new porches, balconies, bay windows, and a large rear addition. With approval of the color scheme by the UVM administration, contractors working with UVM Physical Plant and Smith Alvarez Sienkiewycz Architects removed the old aluminum siding, replaced damaged clapboards, installed a new ADA access ramp, and repainted Nicholson House with its historic colors during the summer of 2016.

#### SUMMER INTERNSHIPS



William Grenier (above) interned in summer 2016 with the Western Center for Historic Preservation (WCHP) in Moose, Wyoming. His primary responsibility was to work as a craftsman with the WCHP preservation field crew. The crew completed multiple restoration and stabilization projects throughout Grand Teton National Park over the summer. The crew's primary responsibility was to complete the final stage of the ten-year rehabilitation of the historic White Grass Dude Ranch. William's duties included structural and finish carpentry, masonry structure restoration, leading volunteer

groups in restoration projects, and the development of maintenance plan for the White Grass site.

This summer Julia Grey (right) trekked with her whole family to Seattle, Washington, where she held two part-time internships. At Historic Seattle, a publiclysupported non-profit with a focus on saving and advocating for endangered real estate, her work focused on preservation easements. Julia organized many aspects of their Preservation Easement Program and performed monitoring for various easement sites. At Bola, a private preservation planning and architecture firm, Julia contributed to several existing contracts. Her



work focused on a City of Seattle Landmark Nomination, a historic façade valuation, a Historic Resource Addendum, and a historic context statement on mid-century modernism. In addition to working on various preservation planning projects, Julia took the opportunity to explore Seattle by bicycle.



Ben Haley (above) interned with the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)

> in Concord, NH. LCHIP makes matching grants to non-profits and municipalities in New Hampshire for land conservation and historic preservation. Ben worked with the historic resource specialist to monitor and assess a number of buildings that had received LCHIP funding. This required travel around the state to dozens of fascinating buildings developing a thorough and understanding of preservation term easements and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Toward the end of the summer, Ben participated in the review of 2016 grant round applications for historic resources.



Liz King (above) spent her summer interning with Greater Portland Landmarks in Portland, Maine. Her primary responsibility was conducting an updated survey of the Oakdale suburb, which developed between 1880 and 1930 and features a broad range of architectural styles. 367 buildings, 251 garages, and 16 barns were documented by Liz and a second intern over ten weeks. In addition, she worked on nominations for Landmarks' 2016 Preservation Awards program and accompanied the advocacy director on several easement inspections, helping to document maintenance issues through notes and photography. Overall, her internship was a great opportunity to learn in-depth about preservation in another New England city and to get a feel for the day-to-day operations of a non-profit organization.



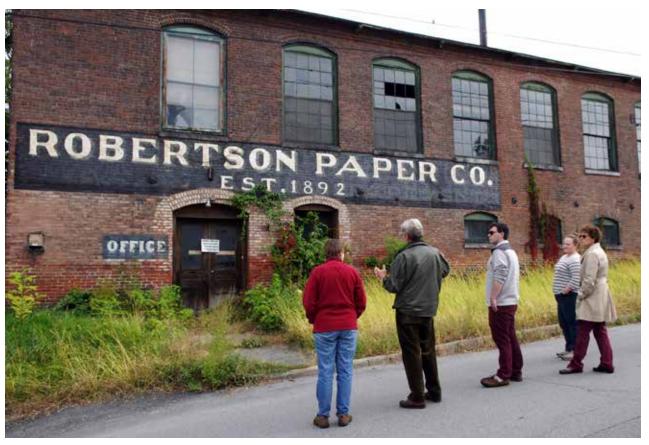


Jessie McNabb (above) interned at Shelburne Museum in Shelburne, Vermont. Shelburne Museum has 39 exhibition buildings, the majority of which are historic and were moved to the site by its founder, Electra Havemeyer Webb, to house her extensive folk art collection. The original vision for the museum is captured by Electra's description of it as a "collection of collections." This includes an inventory of antique tools that are not currently on exhibit due to lack of documentation and vision for interpretation. Jessie's main project was to research and begin documentation for approximately 600 wooden planes that are part of this collection. This included reconciliation of prior documentation; evaluation and identification of plane type, age, maker, and condition for the museum's database; and numbering and storage for each plane. As Shelburne Museum often relies on volunteers and the tool inventory is a long-term endeavor, Jessie created a "plane guide" to assist non-experts in identifying basic plane form and function to continue documentation of Shelburne's tools.

For his summer internship Dan Rhode (left) worked for the Montana Preservation Alliance documenting one-room schoolhouses in rural Montana. This task had him traveling to remote corners of the state to document these historic buildings and sites. He also pwerformed historic masonry work and volunteered with the National Park Service to mothball buildings in Glacier National Park. One of the most surprising moments of his summer was when he spoke before the Missoula City Council to argue for the preservation of an important building in the downtown district. Working with a preservation non-profit has encouraged him to see the role historic preservation can serve in all communities, large and small.

## HISTORIC HARRISVILLE & BELLOWS FALLS FIELD TRIP

BY AUSTIN WHITE



Professor McCullough and his architectural history class discuss a vacant factory building in Bellows Falls, Vermont.

On Saturday, October 8, Professor Robert McCullough's "History of American Architecture" class trekked bright and early to visit three case studies of preservation. The groggy-yeteager students piled into the van full of coffee, snacks, and banter, eagerly awaiting the treasures that they were about to experience.

The Rockingham Meeting House, a late-Georgian bulding constructed between 1787 and 1801, is Vermont's oldest extant public building, and one of a few New England meetinghouses whose condition has remained virtually unchanged. Its character-defining features include ornate classical detailing, box pews, gunstock posts, and an original soundboard above the pulpit. The adjacent burial ground contains fantastic examples of folk art slate gravestones, a burial vault, and a shed housing an 1880s hearse.

Just up the road is the Bellows Falls Downtown Historic District, now serving as a model for reuse and redevelopment. Bellows Falls is in the midst of a renaissance by taking advantage of its varied architectural and cultural resources, specifically on Canal Street. Blocks have been (and continue to be) restored and repainted, and cafes, art galleries, and thrift boutiques have set up shop. Art studios occupy space former warehouses, and local artists have made their mark with funky paintings on boarded windows, stenciling, and an apartment building accented in bright purple, pink, and green.

The final stop was Historic Harrisville, a mid-19thcentury mill village located east of Keene, New Hampshire. Founded as a textile complex shortly before the Civil War, Harrisville is an unusually well-preserved New England mill village. It was a working industrial center until 1970, when its owners turned the business into a non-profit dedicated to maintain the historic mill and other village buildings. Its most prominent feature is Cheshire Mills, a large, beautiful Federal-style granite structure. Harrisville's remarkable preservation is the result of the non-profit efforts to conserve the village's architectural legacy and commercial functions. Through easements, a hefty tax base, and economicmindedness, a wide array of businesses have moved into rehabilitated mills, and residents live in restored houses.

The students extend their gratitude to Professor McCullough for chauffeuring, his insight, and the opportunity to witness remarkable examples of architectural and cultural resources (including bottles of Perrier).



Cheshire Mills, the centerpiece of Historic Harrisville's industrial mill complex.

## Rokeby Museum Recognition Event (continued from front page)

museum and the UVM program "partners in preservation." He gave a visual presentation "in recognition of the Rokeby Museum's outstanding accomplishments in historic preservation, conservation research, and heritage education." Research and technical assistance projects by UVM faculty and students have contributed to the site's preservation over the past three decades.

Board member Dean Leary, former director Karen Peterson, former Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer Eric Gilbertson, and others reflected on the museum's preservation problems and achievements. Professor Visser thanked Harriet Patrick for her many years of dedicated support of historic preservation at Rokeby Museum, at the University of Vermont and elsewhere in Vermont.

Before leaving, participants posed for a commemorative group photograph on the 1814 front porch of the Rokeby house, with the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "This Place Matters" orange banner, in observance of National Historic Preservation Month in May.

## WILLIAM "BILL" THRANE, UVM MS HP '00, DIES AT 84

The University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program was saddened to learn that William "Bill" Thrane of Thetford, Vermont died at the age of 84 on September 12, 2016. Bill enrolled in the UVM Historic Preservation Program after retiring from a career in business and academia. He earned his degree in Historic Preservation from UVM in 2000. After graduating, he served as the town of Thetford's Zoning Administrator and as a member of the Thetford Historic Preservation Committee. He will long be remembered for his cheerful enthusiasm, diligent work and dedication to the preservation field.

#### HISTORIC NEW ENGLAND FIELD SCHOOL BY BEN HALEY



Attendees performing a brick assessment of the Hemry Sheldon Museum in Middlebury, Vermont.

Over the weekend of September 24 and 25, nine students from the UVM Historic Preservation Program attended Historic New England's annual field school. Every year the field school is held in a different part of New England with one or more Historic New England properties nearby. This year, the field school was held in Middlebury, Vermont, and focused on the Sheldon Museum, the oldest community museum in the United States, which entered into a two-year partnership with Historic New England in 2015. The field school was led by Ben Haavik, Team Leader for Property Care; Colleen Chapin, Senior Preservation Manager; and Charlotte Barrett, Community Preservation Manager, based at Sheldon Museum.

The field school introduces participants to the work of Historic New England (formerly the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities), explains their preservation philosophy, and then delves into field exercises. The fieldwork component occurred over both days and focused on assessing and developing treatment plans for the buildings making up the Sheldon Museum, including the original 1829 house, the 1990s additions to the house, and an 1890s barn. Field school participants were divided into teams and then sent to assess various exterior components of the buildings, including the windows, roofs, and clapboards. Each team would then present their assessments and treatment plans to the other groups and Historic New England staff.

The field school provided participants with practical knowledge for future use in the field. In addition, every participant received a bound copy of Historic New England's white papers on conservation topics ranging from the management of historic landscapes to timber-frame repair.

### HABS VISIT BY JULIA GREY

On September 12, 2016, the UVM Historic Preservation Program welcomed Catherine LaVoie, chief of the Historic American Building Survey (HABS), who came to speak with UVM students at Wheeler House and at Rokeby Museum. Catherine discussed the history of the HABS program and its contributions to the field of preservation, as well as its relevance today. HABS was established in 1933 as a unique agreement between the public entities of the National Park Service and Library of Congress, and the American Institute of Architects, a private entity. Inspired by the colonial revival movement and Beaux-Arts drawing traditions, the survey was intended to focus on drawing, documenting, and photographing endangered architecture. Today, HABS is the only Works Progress Administration program still in existence.

п

The common preservation practices of surveying, listing, and comprehensive documentation all stemmed from the development of the survey, and the program has since expanded to include the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) in 1969 and the Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) in 2000. In addition to serving as a clearinghouse for professional heritage documentation, the HABS/HAER/ HALS program is now active in advocacy for revitalizing downtown areas and provides resources to students and nonprofessionals for surveying and recording historic resources. All physical records are stored at the Library of Congress, and the program is also accessible on the library's website. Catherine has been working at HABS since 1985, and was promoted to chief in 2007.



## THE SECOND-YEAR CLASS



Left to right: William Grenier, Ben Haley, Dan Rhode, Liz King, Professor Thomas Visser, Jessie McNabb, and Julia Grey on a field trip at Shelburne Museum

**B** arbara Bosworth grew up in Bristol, Rhode Island, and graduated from the University of Texas in San Antonio with a B.A. in English. Before entering the historic preservation program, she worked for newspapers as a reporter, for museums and non-profits, and was a mural painter. Barbara interned at Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in the nautical archaeology conservation lab in 2015. This past summer she received a grant to participate in Vanishing Treasures Program preservation workshops at the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

William Grenier was born in Connecticut. He later moved to Baltimore to attend the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), where he majored in photography. While in Baltimore, his lifelong curiosity for history began to develop into a professional career. William first worked as a technician restoring historic masonry structures. He then became a carpenter, contracted to work on historic buildings, structures, and sites. Unexpectedly, William's work began to involve designing, advocating for, and planning the adaptive renewal of historic industrial and community spaces within Baltimore. A naturally inquisitive person, William had a passionate, unquenched desire to expand his knowledge in the field of historic preservation, which led him to enroll in the UVM Historic Preservation Program. William is unsure where he will land after graduation, but he hopes to be involved in construction, planning, and advocacy projects.

Julia Grey is from northern Delaware, and completed her undergraduate degree in cultural anthropology from the University of Richmond. In between college and graduate school, she worked both in the corporate and non-profit sectors. Her work with New Americans and traditional arts apprenticeships in Vermont inspired her to explore the connection between places and social practices. During the spring semester, Julia did field research in San Francisco, where she studied a new "legacy businesses" initiative that recognizes historic businesses that have remained in service, at times throughout multiple locations. After graduation, she hopes to stay in Vermont and continue researching the social practices that either tie us to place or transcend it. Julia currently lives in Essex Junction with her better half and their two little girls (ages 2 and 4). **B** en Haley grew up in South Hadley, Massachusetts. **B** He received a B.A. in history from Bates College in 2006 and an M.A. in modern history from the University of Durham, England, in 2008. While in college he interned with two historical societies in western Massachusetts: the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum in Springfield and Historic Northampton. During the summer before beginning the M.A. program in England, he was a museum assistant at the Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum in Hadley, Massachusetts. Upon completing his first graduate degree, Ben moved to New York, where he worked for World Monuments Fund (WMF), an international non-profit

World Monuments Fund (WMF), an international non-profit historic preservation organization. He spent seven years working in communications, and for his last five years he was head of the department, in charge of publicizing the organization's work around the globe and copyediting all of the organization's publications, among other duties. Working at WMF exposed him to the world of historic preservation in the US and around the world, and after seven years in New York, decided to pursue a degree in the field. Upon graduation from UVM, Ben hopes to stay in the northeast and wonders whether to pursue his love of architectural history with a Ph.D. or to find a job.

Liz King grew up in a historic district in Haverhill, Massachusetts. Her interest in preservation started when her family constructed a sensitive addition to their 1750s Cape home, and was piqued further when a major part of the nearby Danvers State Hospital was demolished for apartments. Liz graduated in 2011 from Massachusetts College of Art and Design with a B.F.A. in graphic design and has found her design background complements her preservation education well. During the spring semester, she researched shotgun house neighborhoods in Louisville and Lexington, Kentucky, and the efforts to reinvest in those buildings and communities. After graduation, she hopes to work in New England in either the non-profit or public sector. Jessie McNabb grew up in Glenside, Pennsylvania. She received a B.A. in philosophy from Temple University in Philadelphia in 2010, with a focus on existentialism. While in college she worked as a writing tutor and as a social work research assistant. After graduating Jessie worked for the Yellow Pages, the excruciating boredom of which caused her to flee to Ireland in 2012 to work on organic farms and in horse stables. Jessie returned to the Philadelphia area in 2013 and soon after moved to Burlington to work for UVM as a research assistant in the psychiatry department. She began taking historic preservation classes and decided to pursue the degree. After graduation Jessie plans to move to Philadelphia, where hopefully historic preservation jobs are a'plenty.

Dan Rhode grew up in Missoula, Montana, and spent summers visiting old ghost towns and exploring abandoned buildings. He graduated from Southern Oregon University in 2007 with a B.S. in anthropology and began work as an archaeologist. He spent five seasons on the resource management staff at Zion National Park, where he was exposed to historic preservation first-hand and worked on crews helping to preserve historic and prehistoric structures. After further work as an archaeologist for other national parks and national forests he decided to go back to school to pursue his professional interest in historic preservation. He hopes to take the knowledge he learns at UVM and apply it to the everexpanding role that preservation is playing out West.

## THE INCOMING CLASS



Left to right: Adrienne Dickerson, Jake Collins, Emma Haggerty, Austin White, and Gabrielle Fernandez

Jake Collins grew up in a historic district in Millis, Massachusetts, where his interest in historic properties first began. After a trip to Plimouth Plantation and Old Sturbridge Village at the age of eight, he realized the importance of preserving historic sites and was adamant that his future career would be in preservation. He graduated from the University of Vermont with a B.A. in art history in 2016. During this time, he held collections internships at the Fleming Museum and in a private collection with a focus on architectural photography. Jake hopes to work as an architectural historian in either New England or the Southwest.

A drienne Dickerson was raised on a ranch near Ozona, Texas, where she spent much of her time helping out with the daily operation of the family business. She attended Texas A&M University in College Station where she was a member of Old Main Society, a student government-run historic preservation organization, which is where her love of historic buildings began to take form. She later transferred to Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, where she graduated with a B.A. in history. She worked in real estate in Bryan/College Station for ten years. In 2008 she accepted a position as a purchasing agent and assistant production manager for an electronics engineering firm in the Houston area. Adrienne has traveled extensively through the years, visiting as many historic sites and landmarks as possible. She is excited to join the graduate program at the University of Vermont and hopes to cultivate her passion for historic buildings and sites into a career working internationally in historic preservation. Gabrielle Fernandez has spent her life in the Green Mountain State. She graduated from the University of Vermont in 2015, majoring in history and art history. Having already attended UVM, she knew there would be no better campus for her to pursue her interest in historic preservation. Gabrielle's passion for history and the arts has always extended to its buildings and natural landscapes, her passion arising out of photographing turn-of-the-century farm buildings and slate quarry buildings in Poultney, Vermont. An eager student, Gabrielle hopes to absorb all she can from the preservation program at UVM and enter the workforce with new insights to add to the preservation field.

Emma Haggerty is a 2016 graduate of Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, where she received her B.A. in planning and public policy. Her appreciation for historic buildings stems from her hometown of Haddon Heights, New Jersey, where the historical society has done a wonderful job of preserving homes and commercial buildings. For her senior thesis, Emma wrote about the positive impacts of having a historic downtown by conducting a comparative analysis on two small New Jersey towns. She has a newfound love for Burlington's history and the scenic views it has to offer and hopes her first winter in New England will be kind to her. She is looking forward to learning more about historic preservation and restoration through her readings, her professors, and the second-year students.

ustin White is from Windsor, Connecticut. An early A fascination with architecture, along with the state's numerous colonial-era homes, barns, burial grounds, and ruins helped foster his interest in historic preservation, as did trips with his grandparents to several battlefields and other sites, namely Yorktown, Antietam, Harpers Ferry, and Colonial Williamsburg. Austin graduated from Castleton University in 2007 with a B.A. in history. In 2014 he was elected to the board of directors of Wintonbury Historical Society in Bloomfield, Connecticut. During this time, he earned a GIS certificate from Central Connecticut State University. Austin also volunteered for two organizations in Northampton, Massachusetts: Historic Northampton, where he helped with the GIS mapping of historic properties, and the Bridge Street Cemetery Preservation Committee, assisting in deeds research and facilitating public forums. Following graduation, he would like pursue a career in cultural resource management with a concentration in historical GIS.

# Congratulations to Robert McCullough on his promotion to full professor!

## **1920s Burlington**

BY ADRIENNE DICKERSON



Burlington's colonial revival City Hall under construction in 1927

With this year marking the 50th anniversary of establishment of the National Historic Preservation Act, nostalgia is in the air at Wheeler House, home of UVM's program in historic preservation. One of the highlights of the graduate program is a cumulative fall project completed annually by first-year preservation students in Professor Visser's Researching Historic Structures and Sites course. Previous research projects have included Burlington throughout the 19th century, its manufacturing heritage, and streetscapes. This year the focus of the effort is 1920s Burlington. The decade that began with post-World War I boom and ended with a financial bust leading into the Depression was a time of great change and innovation in America. Each student has chosen a building that is representative of the advances in technology, legislation, education, and cultural awareness made in the 1920s.

Austin White is researching the Ira Allen Chapel. A University of Vermont landmark, the building was completed in 1927 and financed by the Manchester, Vermont, philanthropist James B. Wilbur. Mr. Wilbur became enamored with his adopted state and praised the university's founder for his commitment to higher education, which is why he stipulated that the chapel be named in his honor. Built in the classical

Page 15

revival style by the famed New York City architecture firm of McKim, Mead, and White, Ira Allen Chapel has hosted commencements, lectures, and other campus events for nearly 90 years.

Gabrielle Fernandez's project is on the 1926 Central Fire Station. Its progressive design incorporated the latest firefighting technology and when completed was the most advanced firefighting structure in Burlington. This building was, for the 1920s, a remarkable achievement, one that fostered pride among city residents.

Emma Haggerty is researching Memorial Auditorium on the corner of South Union and Main streets, designed in 1926 by Frank L. Austin. Memorial Auditorium has hosted numerous performances, sporting events, and conventions, bringing people from all over New England through its doors. Long-deferred maintenance on the building leaves its future uncertain.

Adrienne Dickerson is researching Burlington City Hall. Built in 1928, a year before the stock market crash, construction of the new city hall was a point of substantial contention at the time. Plagued by opposition from those wishing to preserve the existing city hall building and spurred on by the community's need for a larger facility more able to suit the needs of Burlington, the turbulent story of the new city hall mirrored that of the growing community it represented.

Jake Collins is researching the Burlington Middle School, now known as Edmunds Elementary School. Constructed in a time when the need to support a family drew students to Vermont's burgeoning industry, the middle school aimed to prepare students for higher education while simultaneously providing vocational training for those who would not advance to high school. Additional research will touch on the roles of recreation and play in 1920s education.

Every building has a story to tell. As preservationists it is often our job to uncover those stories and relay them to the public. In doing so, we bring awareness of the importance of the remaining historic gems to our community. Important as these buildings are to the history of Burlington, it is crucial to remember that their age and upkeep place them all at certain risk, some more so than others. Once the 1920s Burlington project is finished it will be available for public viewing on the UVM Historic Preservation Program website: uvm.edu/~hp206/.

## Visit us online at www.uvm.edu/histpres/

for the latest news, job postings, research projects, alumni updates, and information

## University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/UVMHistoricPreservationProgram



The second-year class enjoying lunch on a field trip to the Green Mountain National Forest

Historic Preservation Program Department of History • Wheeler House 133 South Prospect Street University of Vermont Burlington, Vermont 05405

