

PA'S ANNUAL FALL PARTY: STEELCASE

This year's annual fall party, held in conjunction with the VIIIth International DOCOMOMO Conference, drew large numbers of preservation students, professors, and alumni as well as young professionals attending the conference. On the evening of Monday, September 27th, guests gathered at the sleek modern offices of Steelcase, a business furniture manufacturer, at 4 Columbus Circle. From the company's expansive terrace and bright airy rooms, the crowd enjoyed wine and took in the stunning views of Central Park and the neighboring Time Warner Center.

PA President Jamie Schroeder's opening remarks were followed by Director Paul Byard's comments regarding the growth and direction of the program. PA announced their annual gift to the first year students: money in the amount of \$400 to sponsor

one of the architecture school's weekly happy hours—known informally as Six on Six—in an attempt to bring together students from all of the different programs in Avery together.

Congratulations to this year's Cleo and James Marston Fitch Prize winner **Laura Buchner** for her paper *Ornamental Terra Cotta Along the Hudson River, in the Neighborhoods of Mott Haven, Harlem, Marble Hill, Inwood, and the Bronx Terminal Market*. The Fitch Prize, awarded annually, goes to a second year student for an outstanding paper completed for coursework. **Nathan Riddle** (1999) won the DOCOMOMO prize awarded to a modern architecture thesis written in the past five years. His paper was entitled *Landscape Preservation and Interpretation: Issues of Use, Historical Experience, and Myth at the Gettysburg National Military Park*.



View of Columbus Circle from the balcony of Steelcase, with the new Time Warner building (left) and 2 Columbus Circle (right)

In addition, PA's book donations, purchased from the proceeds of the Placzek Fund, were announced. This year's acquisitions included J. L. Mott Iron Works' *Built-in Baths: Solid Porcelain and Enameled Iron* (1912), James Everard's *Turkish, Roman, and Electric Baths* (1892), *The Church of the Future—The Story Behind the Architecture of Community Christian Church, 4601 Main Street, Kansas City, Missouri*, and *The Great Cathedrals and Most Celebrated Churches of the World* (1884) by James L. Meagher. These new library additions can be viewed through appointment through Avery Classics.

-Anne Walker

GEORGE WHEELER, CONSERVATION PROFESSOR

George Wheeler joins the Historic Preservation Department after 25 years at the Metropolitan Museum of Art as a Research Scientist in the Sherman Fairchild Center for Objects Conservation. While he is probably most well known for his research and writing in stone conservation he also has taught in the graduate program for art conservation at New York University's Conservation Center for over 15 years, and, in the process, gained the reputation as an excellent teacher. In fact, in recent years many

Historic Preservation students have migrated to NYU to take his seminar in stone conservation. It is to continue and expand these two activities – research and teaching – that have brought him to Columbia University as the Director of Conservation Research. His initial teaching responsibilities are a seminar in stone conservation and collaborating with Francoise Bollack, Andrew Dolkart, and Jorge Otero-Pailos in teaching Studio I. He will also serve as co-director along with Anthony Webster

of the newly conceived conservation/fabrication laboratory that directly links Historic Preservation to Architecture. The goals of this linkage are to re-energize and develop conservation research at Columbia and to initiate research, development, and testing of new materials and designs for architecture. He is excited by the possibilities that this new lab presents for the past to inform the present and

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Preservation Alumni, Inc. is a non-profit organization that was formed by alumni of the Historic Preservation Program at the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia University. The mission of PA is to support and enrich the Historic Preservation program, by advising and assisting the students, faculty, and alumni, and to advance preservation as a diverse field of public and professional endeavors.

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PA Memo welcomes submissions from faculty, alumni, students and friends. Please contact us at:

Preservation Alumni
P.O. Box 669
Peck Slip Station
New York, NY 10272
info@preservationalumni.org

Editor: René Fan
Contributors: George Wheeler, Anne Walker, Seri Worden, Legier Stahl, Manami Kamikawa

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Alumni and Friends! It is a pleasure for me to serve as PA's new president.

I hope that all of you have been enjoying our many recent events. We saw many alumni and friends at our annual fall party, a reception for new students that was held in late September at Steelcase's office at Columbus Circle. There was a spectacular view from their outdoor terrace!

In October, we had an alumni work day at Governor's Island, which included a behind-the-scenes tour of the island and its buildings.

Just recently, in early November, PA board members organized an historic pub crawl in the East Village and Lower East Side. Students and alumni visited one of the oldest bars in the city, **McSorely's** (opened in 1857), the former Ukrainian Communist Party headquarters, **KGB** (decked with Soviet memorabilia), the 70's and 80's themed **Welcome to the Johnsons**, and the former speakeasy **Lansky Lounge**.

In addition, PA organized a symposium in November for students and alumni. A num-

ber of alumni spoke about their jobs and careers, in preparation for many first-year students' decision to choose a sector specialization.

Preservation Alumni is an active organization that provides vital support for students and alumni. Make sure that you are in the loop on all of our future alumni events. Sign up for the e-newsletter by contacting:

update@preservationalumni.org

We hope to see you at our Spring Party!

- Jamie Schroeder

BOARD MEMBERS STEP DOWN, STEP UP

This past May 2004 saw a significant turnover in the Board of Directors due to many members stepping down at the end of their three-year term.

PA will miss Lisa Kersavage (President), Morris Hylton III (Vice President) and Paula Hankins (Secretary) on the Executive Committee. In addition, many thanks to departing members Kevin Daly, Lisa

Easton, Gregory Dietrich, Preuit Hirsch, Mary Kay Judy, Kirsten Reoch, Jake Tilove, and Andrea Kaiser (2nd year student representative) for all of their work these past years.

New members added to the Board this September include Becca Birch-Dowling, Michael Caratzas, James Conlon, Tania Goffee, Kim Owens and Kevin Seymour. Representing

the first year class this year is Manami Kamikawa.

PA is working on a number of events this upcoming year for current students and alumni, such as career talks, alumni work days, and publishing the indispensable Preservation Alumni Directory 2005. Please visit our website at www.preservationalumni.org for the latest news.

LETTERS

To the Editor,
Re: Spring 2004 Issue

I always enjoy reading the PA Memo, but am saddened to see that it frequently employs a common misuse of a term important to preservation. In the last issue, Spring 2004, I counted four of these errors, in an otherwise exceptional issue. That term is **adaptive reuse**. If you will

give it a moment's thought, you will realize that 'adaptive' and 'reuse' both mean the same thing. *Adaptive use* tells you all you need to know. Lose the 're'.

If thinking about it doesn't convince you, I quote as a source Michael Ainsley, past president of the National Trust of Historic Preservation. He made the point - vigorously - at a seminar at

Yale University that I attended as a preservation student in the early '80s. The subject of the seminar was adaptive use of historic buildings.

Nancy O'Neil (1983)

PA Memo welcomes letters from readers. Letters may be shortened due to space requirements.

GEORGE WHEELER, CONT'D



George Wheeler joins the faculty of the Historic Preservation program

(Continued from page 1)

future in architecture, and how active engagement with the creation of new architecture can engender a deeper appreciation and

understanding of the past.

For all his years in the world of museum conservation, George is no stranger to architecture conservation – an area he has actively consulted in since 1980. In that time, he has collaborated with many HP alumni and faculty on projects as diverse as the Lincoln (John Waite) and Jefferson Memorials (Judy Jacob), Angkor Wat (John Stubbs and Glenn Boornazian), The Brooklyn Historical Society (Raymond Pepi, Claudia Kavenagh, Richard Pieper), and helping assess conditions and develop a preservation plan for

the concentration camps at Auschwitz/Birkenau (Theo Prudon).

As with many others in the diverse profession of historic preservation, his career path has been anything but straight. As an undergraduate at Muhlenberg College, he majored in physics and also garnered All Conference honors in both football and baseball. As part of the distribution requirements at this small liberal arts college, he took a course in Impressionist Art and was forever altered. Staying an additional year to complete a double major in art history and physics lead to a master's degree in art history at Hunter College of the City of New York and to a graduate degree in art conservation at the Conservation Center at NYU. But the lure of science was strong and George was able to bring his love of science into full alignment with his love of art by completing a Ph.D. in chemistry at NYU with the renowned Seymour Lewin while working in the Objects Conservation Department at the Metropolitan Museum.

George has used this broad education as

a professional to publish widely and his book *Alkoxysilanes and the Consolidation of Stone* will appear in the Spring of 2005 in the *Research in Conservation Series* by the Getty Conservation Institute. Among his other honors is a Rome Prize in 1997. "Being immersed in Rome and Italy in all its glory and having daily interactions with artists and scholars fully devoted to the past, the present and the future, has been my most enriching intellectual experience." He sees New York City and Columbia University modeled along the same lines. "There is nothing more alluring than working with dedicated, energetic, and intelligent colleagues and students. I see not only great tradition here in Historic Preservation but a great future." George also continues his engagement with the world outside academia by consulting with Building Conservation Associates (Raymond Pepi), the Isamu Noguchi Foundation, New York University's Villa La Pietra in Florence, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It is this background and experience that he now brings to Columbia University.

STUDENT NEWS

Every year, PA presents a gift to the students at the Fall Party. In past years, PA has contributed money toward scanners, printers, and notably last year, a boat ride for an overview of the study area, the Harlem River. However this year, there was no pressing need for new studio equipment. Students felt that the money could be better spent to promote interaction between historic preservation students and other students in the architecture and planning departments. As a result, funds this year were directed toward a party for the school, sponsored by HP students. Instead of having the habitual Friday drinks at 6 on 6, preservation students hosted a well-attended and hugely successful party at Tom's, in the basement of Avery Hall on October 23. In perhaps unprecedented fashion, students from

sometimes opposing perspectives came together to enjoy beer, wine, and snacks.

FIRST YEAR

The first year studio is focusing on the east side of Lower Manhattan, around the Brooklyn Bridge. From South Street and the waterfront to the western boundary of Nassau Street, the study area stretches north to south from Wall Street to Catherine Lane. Stay tuned for more news about this interesting area in next spring's PA Memo.



Manami Kamikawa

Preservation students at the HP sponsored "6 on 6" at Tom's, in the basement of Avery Hall. From left to right are Amanda Davis, Jessica Williams, Lew Gleason, and Anne LeBleu.

STUDENT NEWS CONT'D *from page 3*

SECOND YEAR

Second year students presented their thesis topics on October 8 and 9. This winter break, two Kinne trips are planned: one group will be traveling to Cambodia with Professor John Stubbs

and another group will journey to Argentina with Professor Theo Prudon.

Deborah Del Sorito



Professor Byard with students in Mexico City for the Advanced Architectural Design Workshop

This fall semester, some HP

students are participating in the Design Workshop, a course conducted jointly with architectural design students. The course examines the campus of the **Universidad Nacional Autonoma de**

Mexico (UNAM), as a case study for designing additions. Preservation students will study the history and environment of Mexico City and situate the campus and university in an historical

narrative.

The class visited the site from September 29 to October 1.

Built in the 1950s,

the University emerged as a symbol of Mexico's progress into the modern world. Architecture students will design a 55,000 square foot addition that responds to the existing conditions and

enhances the original design. Preservation students will demonstrate an historical understanding of the site and examine the meaning of the site as it undergoes changes and additions.

FITCH GRANT

PA will soon be awarding one second-year student a grant of \$500 towards any expenses related to research for their thesis. Travel expenses, copies of drawings or photographs, purchase of materials are all costs that can be applied towards the Fitch Grant. Last year, the award went to Takushi Yoshida for travel related to his thesis, "Machine Aesthetics is Architecture: Adaptive Re-use of Grain Elevators in Buffalo as an Industrial Landscape".

The grant will be awarded in mid-November after the *Memo* goes to print. The winner will be announced in our Spring issue.

DOCOMOMO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

DOCOMOMO held its VIIIth international conference in New York City last September 26th through the 29th at Columbia University's School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. The conference theme, **Import – Export: Postwar Modernism in an Expanding World, 1945-1975**, drew speakers and attendees from over 30 countries. More than seventy case studies on de-

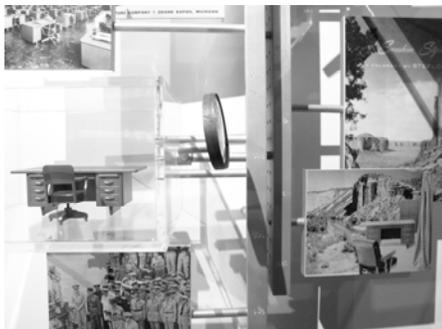
sign and technical interventions, policy proposals and overviews of modern architecture and its preservation were presented over three days. Sessions covered such themes as *Internationalization: Aspects of Modernity and Innovation Across International Borders, Resistance and Independence: Proposals for Resistance by Independent Architects* and *Postwar New York: Architects, Developers, Patrons and Corporate Liberalism*; the latter included a dynamic and lively paper titled, "Brazilian New York: Connecting Corb to the Postwar City," presented by the preservation program's director Paul Byard. In a related event, Preservation Alumni & DOCOMOMO US held a Fall Party for students and young professionals at the Steelcase showroom in Columbus Circle.

extensive series of walking and bus tours in the city and beyond. Topics ranged from *Corporate Midtown Manhattan* and *Modern Living on the Upper East Side* to *Modern Architecture in Queens and Long Island*.

The conference was topped off with a fittingly sleek party at one of New York City's premier modern buildings, Skidmore, Owings and Merrill's Lever House.

The conference not only brought together many nationalities and people of various academic backgrounds, but closer to home it helped to bring together the architecture program and preservation program within Columbia's GSAPP through lectures and symposia opened to students as well as an exhibit in Avery on the famed New York Modernist, Max Abramovitz.

-Seri Worden



René Fan

A display model of classic Steelcase furniture in their office at Columbus Circle

MUNICIPAL ART SOCIETY'S NEW PRESERVATION FELLOW: LISA KERSAVAGE

Preservation Alumni's previous president, Lisa Kersavage (1998), was chosen as the new **Kress / RFR Fellow for Historic Preservation** at the Municipal Art Society



Lisa Kersavage, Kress / RFR Preservation Fellow

(MAS). Founded in 1893, MAS is a private, non-profit membership organization whose mission is to promote a more livable city.

While there, Lisa will oversee the Society's Preservation Committee and advance their historic preservation mission, especially in terms of policy.

Lisa brings extensive preservation experience to her new position, including more than five years as Executive Director of Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts. Before attending the preservation program at Columbia, she surveyed a

portion of Route 66 for the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office and researched and wrote preservation policy and design guidelines for the Planning Department in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

When asked about her successes at FRIENDS, she mentions the exhibit she organized, "Modern Architecture on the Upper East Side: Landmarks of the Future," and her subsequent drive to designate those buildings. She also refers to the survey and research of over 450 buildings on the Upper East Side. That survey generated public awareness for the advocacy work that FRIENDS did because members of the community did much of the survey work. Lisa trained the volunteers and created user-friendly survey forms that indicated the size, materials, and architectural features of a structure.

One of her board members and Chair of FRIENDS' Preservation Committee, Franny Eberhart, comments "Lisa has been a joy to work with at Friends. Her high preservation standards and passion has kept the organization energized." Ms. Eberhart went on to say that "Lisa's advocacy for modern landmarks is fervent and also incredibly well-informed."

Having worked with developers and community groups at the neighborhood level, Lisa looks forward to being involved with issues and projects across the five boroughs. During the two-year fellowship, Lisa will have the opportunity to focus on a preservation policy project. The past preservation fellow, Vicki Weiner, organized and compiled a "Watch List" for architecturally significant buildings less than thirty years old. Among all the buildings and sites and issues affecting their preservation, how will Lisa choose what to pursue at MAS? "I want to produce useful information for the preservation community," Lisa says.

Lisa has also been named the first Executive Director for the James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation, Inc. Founded in 1988, it was established to recognize the unique contribution of Dr. Fitch to the field of historic preservation in the United States. The purpose of the foundation is to advance the study and practice of preservation by supporting preservation endeavors through a research grant program as well as publications, seminars, and lectures.

-René Fan

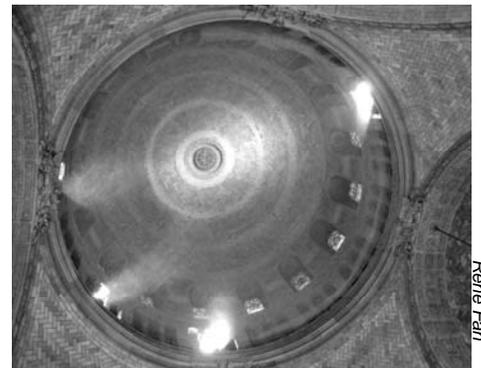
MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR PROFESSOR MARTIN E. WEAVER

A memorial service was held for Professor Martin Weaver at St. Paul's Chapel on the evening of October 16th, 2004. Martin passed away in July after being diagnosed with cancer.

The service opened and concluded with bagpipes played by Professor Michael Devonshire. A number of speakers shared stories they had of their friendships and adventures with Martin, including Shelly Sass, Paul Byard, Norman Weiss, Jamie Schroeder, and Hansel Hernandez-Navarro. Many spoke of Martin's boundless energy, vast knowledge and charisma.

Martin's wife Leslie and his daughters came from Ottawa to attend the service. Many recent and long-ago alumni attended, as well as faculty and administrative staff.

Preservation Alumni is seeking to establish an APT scholarship in Martin's name, that would enable one preservation student each year to attend the annual APT conference. The goal is for each class to raise \$1,000 to put towards a fund for the scholarship. Please contact info@preservationalumni.org for information on donating.



The ceiling of St. Paul's Chapel



PRESERVATION ALUMNI OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

P.O. Box 669
Peck Slip Station
New York, NY 10272-0669



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JOURNAL OF PRESERVATION HISTORY: FUTURE ANTERIOR

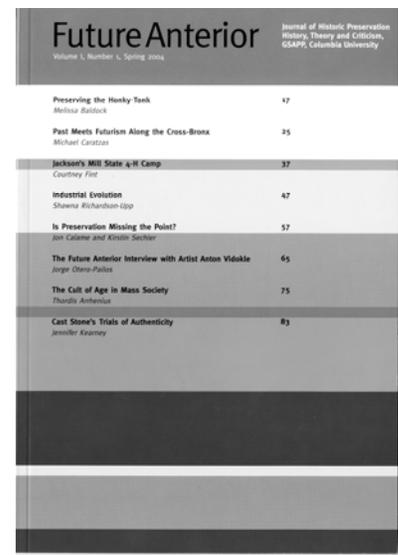
Future Anterior, Columbia University's new journal of Preservation History, Theory and Criticism, was recently established by Professor Jorge Otero-Pailos as a forum devoted to the advancement of new ideas about the field's goals, practices, and hidden potentials. The peer-reviewed journal is the first and only publication of its kind in American academia, drawing together practitioners and scholars from various disciplines, who are interested in the creative possibilities of preservation.

Prof. Otero-Pailos, *Future Anterior* Director, works closely with a staff of seven historic preservation student editors. The experience of editing the content and crafting the form of each issue is an exciting and invaluable educational experience for students, beyond the strictures of the classroom.

The first issue of the journal was enthusiastically received by professionals and

academics in North America and abroad. Even without advertising, subscriptions have poured in from Europe, Asia, Australia, and Latin America. Buoyant reviews appeared in *Docomomo International Journal*, *Architect*, *NTHP Northeast Preservation News*, *O.B.N.O.V.A.*, *eOculus*, *Society of Architectural Historians Newsletter*, and others. The second issue is forthcoming in January of 2005, and will include articles on themes such as cultural heritage, the preservation of modern monuments, and contemporary preservation planning in China.

The journal, funded in part by the GSAPP, relies heavily on grants, individual sponsors, and subscriptions. The editors warmly encourage Preservation Alumni to contribute articles (next deadline is January 28, 2005), and obtain a yearly subscription (\$24 for 2 issues, in June and December). More information on *Future Anterior*, how to subscribe or



become a sponsor can be found at www.arch.columbia.edu/futureanterior.