

## STUDENT NEWS: “WHAT WE DID OVER OUR SUMMER VACATION”

The Class of '07 was not disappointed in its anticipation of the “perfect summer job,” as students went far afield - and even close to home - to hone their skills in research, draftsmanship, conservation, writing, advocacy, and more. Here’s a look at how some students spent their summers:

**Pepper Watkins** went home to Virginia to work in the Southern Field Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, fighting

the Virginia Department of Transportation’s proposed expansion of Interstate 81 through the scenic and historic Shenandoah Valley. At the end of his summer, Pepper went to Falmouth, Jamaica to conduct HABS-style documentation of vernacular timber-framed architecture.

**Lisa Mroszczyk** worked for the National Park Service’s Historic Preservation Training Center in (see INTERNSHIPS, p. 2)

## PRESERVATION ALUMNI NEWS

### PA’s Improved Website Now Allows Renewals, Donations Online

Renewing or initiating your membership to Preservation Alumni just got easier thanks to online membership renewal at [Preservationalumni.org](http://Preservationalumni.org) - see the *Membership* page for information. Members and friends are also encouraged to check out PA’s online listings of events and programs, job opportunities, and more.

### PA Continues to Offer Health Insurance to CU Preservation Program Graduates

One of the benefits of membership in Preservation Alumni has long been the eligibility for our health insurance program. Many graduates of the Historic Preservation program at Columbia University are self-employed and thus lack affordable health-care options. PA therefore offers health-care coverage through Atlantis Health Plans to those of its members who are graduates of the Columbia program.

(see INSURANCE, p. 5)



Monument at Brooklyn’s Greenwood Cemetery, newly restored by current student Lurita McIntosh, '07.

- Photo by Lurita McIntosh

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**Preservation Alumni, Inc.** is an independent non-profit organization founded and run 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 endeavor.

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

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Britton Baine



Restoration work underway at the Boston Waterworks

*-Photo by Olivia Klose*

**INTERNSHIPS** (continued from p. 1)

Frederick, Maryland, completing a conditions assessment and rehabilitation treatment report for the historic Senator Jennings Randolph Cottage in the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Lisa also prepared construction documents for reconstruction of the north porch at Blandair Manor in Howard County, Maryland.

**Megan Rispoli** worked for the New York Landmarks Conservancy's Sacred Sites Program, assisting with their ongoing survey of architecturally and historically significant Roman Catholic Churches in the Diocese of Brooklyn.

**Mersedeh Jorjani** worked at the

Scientific Research Department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Mersedeh worked with conservators and scientists at the forefront of art scientific research for conservation. She conducted research and materials testing for adhesives to be used in the restoration of Tullio Lombardo's "Adam," one of the museum's most prized examples of Renaissance sculpture.

Both **Amanda Stauffer** and **Olivia Klose** worked for Building Conservation Associates, where their collective experiences spanned the entire conservation-preservation spectrum. Amanda was based in (see INTERNSHIPS, p. 3)

## PRESERVATION ALUMNI DONATES 19-TH CENTURY REAL-ESTATE PROSPECTUS TO AVERY LIBRARY

The Preservation Alumni Placzek Fund recently endowed the purchase of a nineteenth-century real estate pamphlet for Avery Library's rare books collection. The pamphlet is dated March 2, 1860 and describes a proposal from the Central Home Association for "improvements in domestic architecture" in a fine location near Central Park.

The site is noted as a three-minute walk from the Ramble with the North River on the other side. The total cost of land and buildings, for five-hundred families, is noted as \$650,000. The pamphlet was intended to advertise to stockholders for subscription and purchase of

the apartments.

The purpose of the large development was to "avoid the inconvenience and evils connected with living in our great city." The Palace Home was to provide "great elegance and refinement in living with great economy." It was to have a courtyard with central fountain and waterworks, public parlors, reading rooms, reception rooms, dining halls and restaurants and cafes. It proposed to have numerous experienced cooks in the "culinary department" and mentioned gardeners and nearby farms from supplies for residents were to be purchased. There was also to be a vast laundry with labor-saving machinery. Resi-

dences would have had syphon ventilation and every room would have had gas lighting and a minimum of one window.

The pamphlet provides a significant look at mid-nineteenth-century proposals for improved living, at a time when housing in Manhattan was moving up the island and land was open for development. Not much is known about the pamphlet or the developers who wrote it, and as such, it is an opportunity for research into a large-scale project which was never actualized.

The pamphlet was offered to Claudia Funke, Avery Library's curator of rare books, by a dealer with the note, "I will be surprised if Avery has this. It is a really fascinating piece of ephemera." "Indeed," states Claudia, "I can't seem to locate a copy of it anywhere else."

- Cleary Larkin

### INTERNSHIPS (continued from p. 2)

New York, but traveled as far as Baltimore to survey the historic Evergreen House. Olivia was part of a team of eight interns working hard through the summer heat to restore three enormous historic steam engines which are part of the Boston Waterworks system and slated to become part of a major adaptive reuse project.

**Lurita McIntosh** spent the summer in the Monuments Preservation department of Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn. Lurita's primary project was the restoration of a nearly-life-sized marble angel. After the angel was structurally stabilized, she artistically recreated the missing feet and ankles and created an entirely

new set of wings. The angel is now the centerpiece of a prominent floral planting at the cemetery.

**Katie McLaughlin** and **Lindsay Miller** traveled to Ireland to investigate the adaptive reuse and redevelopment of workhouses. They traveled throughout Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Great Britain, visiting over a dozen of the mid-nineteenth century structures, documenting their history, their adaptation for a multitude of modern uses, and the evolving attitudes of locals towards workhouses and preservation in general.

Most students agreed that struggling through the first year of the program was well worth the reward

of going out into the professional world to test their mettle as budding preservationists. Many hope to pursue work in the vein of their summer internships after they graduate Columbia, while others feel that they experienced a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

- Olivia Klose, Katie McLaughlin, Lindsay Miller, Lurita McIntosh

## FALL 2006 FIRST-YEAR STUDIO STUDIES THE UPPER WEST SIDE

Often referred to as a universe rather than an area, the 2006 first-year studio study area covered the entire Upper West Side from 59th Street to 110th Street.

Comprising a wide swath of land from the artistic realm of Lincoln Center to the south to the academic halls of Morningside Heights to the north, and bounded by the Hudson River to the west and Central Park to the east, this year's study area posed a challenge both in its immensity and diversity, yet allowed students great accessibility from campus.

For much of its history a rural and sparsely-populated part of Manhat-

tan Island, the Upper West Side sprang to life when in 1879 the Ninth Avenue (now Columbus Avenue) elevated train arrived with stations at 72nd, 81st, 93rd and 104th Streets. Now within easy reach of the heart of bustling downtown, the Upper West Side grew as a residential community in a boom from 1885 to 1910, when its barren, rocky terrain was leveled and replaced by blocks of row houses and tenements for the wealthy and the working middle-class.

During the middle of the 20th century, parts of this area slid into a blighted state and were subject to regeneration, resulting in Lincoln Center and the Lincoln Towers.

Other more prosaic urban renewal projects, such as the Frederick Douglass Houses on 100th through 104th Streets, also may be found throughout this diverse area. With its late 19th century row houses, its glorious apartment buildings on Central Park West, and its urban renewal projects of the 1960s, this area provides material for discussion of various social issues of the past century as well as endless possibilities for architectural study.

The studio this year was led by Paul Byard, Francoise Bollack, Andrew Dolkart and Craig Konyk.

- Julianne Maila, '08

## 2006 FALL PARTY: PA HOSTS STUDENTS AND ALUMNS AT THE SALMAGUNDI ARTS CLUB

This year's fall party allowed students, alumni and faculty to meet and mingle in a location filled with unique character, charm and history. It was a full house at the Salmagundi Arts Club, which has served as a center for fine artists for over 130 years, and since 1917 has made its home in an 1850's Renaissance Revival style brownstone on Fifth Avenue. Honorary members of the club have included Sir Winston Churchill, Buckminster Fuller, and Paul Cadmus.

Preservation Alumni President Jamie Schroeder welcomed the class of 2008, and Board Member Tania Goffee presented second year stu-



PA board member **George Jaramillo, '05**, speaks at the Fall Party as PA president **Jamie Schroeder, '00** and PA board member **Tania Goffee, '04**, look on.

-Photo by Jacqui Hogans

## ALUMNI PROFILES: 2005 ALUMNUS RETURNS FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA

**Rob Thomson '05** currently serves as the Historic Compliance Coordinator at the Presidio Trust in San Francisco, working along with his colleagues to ensure that the nearly 500 buildings within the Presidio, a National Historic Landmark District, are properly maintained.

While at Columbia, Rob was the editor-in-chief of the inaugural volume of *Future Anterior*. Immediately after graduating, Rob began an internship at the Getty Conservation Institute in Malibu, where he worked in the education department on the development and implementation of a training program for preservationists and conservators in Southeast Asia. During the course of this

project, Rob traveled to Cambodia in June of 2006, where he conducted research on training activities at the Angkor Wat temple complex. He also spent time evaluating the past training efforts of the Getty Institute.

As a recipient of the Kinne Fellows Traveling Prize, Rob traveled to Bangkok and Bombay to research the impact of urbanization in those cities on preservation. An article on his research, "Looking East," will be published this spring in *The Next American City*. Another article of Rob's, summarizing past conservation efforts at Angkor and suggestions on how to improve future training programs, will be featured

in the British journal *Built Environment*.

Rob has continued to make an impact on historic preservation in the United States as well. He presented a paper at the Goucher College Historic Preservation Forum in Baltimore this past spring, and he has served as a guest lecturer in the historic preservation courses at the University of California at Berkeley.

Rob currently lives in San Francisco, where he lived prior to studying at Columbia. This December, he plans to marry his fiancée, Laura.

- Jacqui Hogans, '05

### FALL PARTY (continued from p. 4)

dent, Christopher Brazee, with the annual Cleo and James Marston Fitch Prize for the best paper written during a student's first year in the program. Christopher's paper, *The Evolution of the Riverside: From Model Tenement to Model of the Preservation Movement*, concerning the 1890 Riverside model tenements in Brooklyn Heights, was written for his History of American Architecture Before 1876 class. We were also treated to a few words from PA's first board president, Frank Sanchis.

Special thanks to Becca Birch-Dowling for organizing the party, and PA looks forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Party!

### INSURANCE (continued from p. 1)

Eligible PA members have the option of selecting one of four plans that best suits their health-care needs. Both single and family plans are available, and spouses and domestic partners of eligible PA members are also welcome to sign up for individual health plans as long as they become members of PA. Single health care coverage ranges in price from approximately just under \$300 to \$350 per month, while the family plan options cost between approximately \$750 and \$910 per month.

For more information on PA's Atlantis Health Plans, visit the membership page of our website: <http://www.preservationalumni.org/htm/membership.htm>, or email [info@preservationalumni.org](mailto:info@preservationalumni.org) with any questions.

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- Melissa Baldock, '03

## **PRESERVATION ALUMNI PUB CRAWL**



Alumni **Amy Diehl**, **Kevin Seymour** and **Michael Caratzas** and PA friend **Katie Horack** enjoy drinks at Brouwers on Stone Street in lower Manhattan during September's Preservation Alumni pub crawl. Other stops on the tour of historic downtown watering holes included Fraunces Tavern, Ulysses, The Paris Cafe and Jeremy's Ale House.

*- Photo by Alvin Ho, '02*



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