

ALUMNI NEWS: GINA CREVELLO, '98, AND THE RESTORATION OF THE CUTTY SARK

The Cutty Sark Clipper Ship, the world's sole surviving tea clipper and a vessel renowned throughout the world as an icon of maritime history, caught fire on May 21, 2007. Alumna and new PA board member **Gina Crevello, '98**, was project manager for a major conservation effort which was already underway when the fire struck and which is currently on hold until forensic and structural investigations can be carried out.

The ship, built in 1869 in Dumbarton, Scotland, has been dry-docked in Greenwich, London, since 1954. The gateway for the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Maritime Greenwich, the ship also houses the world's largest collection of figureheads.

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The Cutty Sark in flames

- Photo courtesy of Gina Crevello

PRESERVATION ALUMNI NEWS

Letter From the President

Summer is finally here and I would like to extend my congratulations to the Class of 2007. I hope that you're all taking a well-deserved break this summer before diving in to the professional world of preservation in the fall.

I would like to thank everyone who attended our Spring Party at the Seamen's Church Institute and enjoyed the beautiful spring evening and view of the Brooklyn Bridge over the rooftops of the Seaport. I would especially like to thank PA board member **Becca Birch-Dowling, '04**, for all her hard work in organizing the party. PA also held our second members-only

tour in June organized by **Sybil Young, '04**. **John Krawchuk, '95**, led the tour of the now-closed High Bridge as well as bonus tours of High Bridge Tower and the High Bridge Pool. PA board member **Amy Diehl, '03**, also put together a very successful Career Day during this year's Fitch Colloquium.

There have been a few changes over the past few months on the PA board, including the addition of several members. Please welcome our newest members: **Jen Most, '05**, **Gina Crevello, '98**, **Lindsay Smith, '06** and **Joselito Corpus, '05**. We also have some changes in board leadership, with
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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

LETTER (continued from p. 1)

Becca Birch-Dowling, '04, taking on the role of Vice President, **Seri Worden**, '02, as new Treasurer, and me as the new President.

I would like to extend a special thanks to outgoing president **Jamie Schroeder**, '02, for her three years of service at the helm of Preservation Alumni and to **Melissa Baldock**, '03, for all her hard work as PA's Treasurer.

I also want to thank the editors of the PA Memo, Sybil Young, '04, and **Britton Baine**, '04, for putting together another great issue. Please contact them if you have an article that you would like to submit. You can email them at info@preservationalumni.org.

Staytunedforupcomingeventsinthefall, including preservation-themed movie nights, a volunteer work day and our Fall Party. Check our website, www.preservationalumni.org, for the latest events, and of course keep an eye out for our e-mail announcements. Please keep your membership and contact information current so we can keep you in the loop. If you have events or job openings that you would like posted on the website, send them to update@preservationalumni.org.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of your summer and I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Best wishes,

Kevin Seymour, Class of 2002

PA Toasts Spring at South Street Seaport

On May 3rd, PA welcomed spring in the penthouse of the Seamen's Church Institute at our annual Spring Party, organized by PA Vice President **Becca Birch-Dowling**. Students, alumni and faculty gathered for drinks and hors d'oeuvres and were welcomed by new PA President, **Kevin Seymour**. It was a great opportunity for alumni to catch up and for graduating students to do some much-needed relaxing while taking in stunning views over the East River.

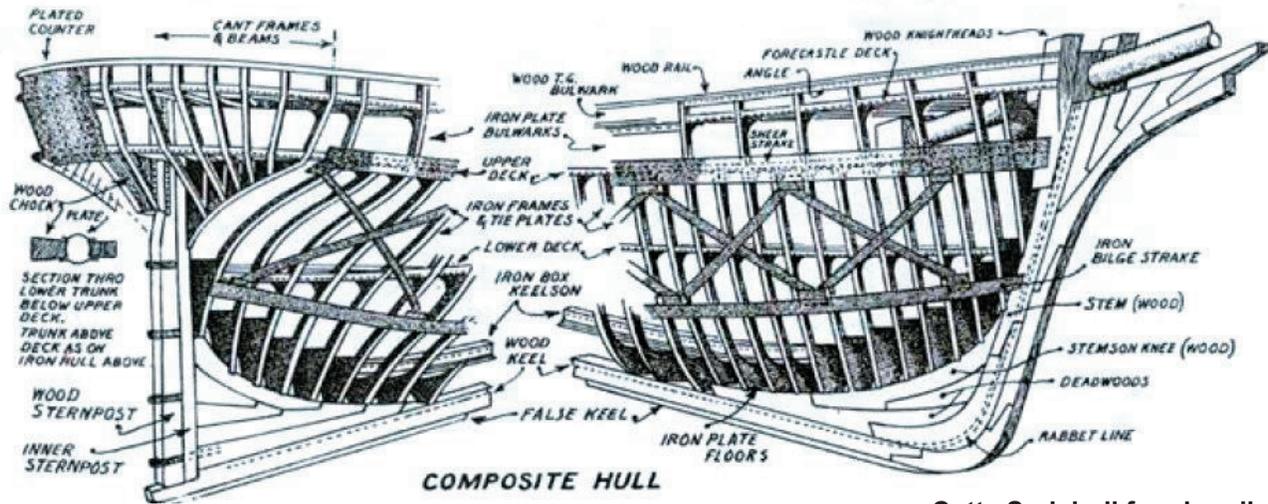
New Officers Elected

PA is pleased to announce that the following board members have taken officers' positions at PA:

Kevin Seymour, class of 2002, President. Kevin is a senior architectural designer at Jan Hird Pokorny Associates, focused on historic preservation and adaptive reuse. Currently he is working on a number of projects including the restoration and expansion of an 1860s tenement in Manhattan and the renovation of New Jersey Transit's Broad Street Station in Newark, New Jersey. Kevin has served on the board of PA for three years, and previously held the office of Vice President.

Becca Birch-Dowling, class of 2004, Vice President. Becca is a project manager for F.J. Sciame Construction Co., a construction management firm that specializes

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Cutty Sark hull framing diagram
- Image courtesy of Gina Crevello

CUTTY SARK (continued from p. 1)

Fortunately, at the time of the fire, the ship was 50% deconstructed, the deck furniture, masts, captain's quarters and figurehead collection were off-site, and 50% of the planks had been removed for consolidation treatments.

Prior to this tragedy, years of assessments, research and trials had been conducted to assure the best possible treatments for the ship and to extend her life for at least another 50 years. Working on the last surviving tea clipper proved to be a challenging project for everyone involved, even before the fire. Structurally, the ship is a composite frame, with wrought-iron ribs, cross-bracing and strake plates with wood knees, stems and sternposts, all set within rock elm planks. The planks were bolted to the ship with Muntz metal (a 60-40 blend of copper and zinc) and originally sheathed in this same material as well. Adding further to the Cutty Sark's historic significance, the ship is one of only three surviving composite frame ships in the world, and Gina's efforts as project manager included overseeing in-situ electrolysis trials and conducting testing for various

treatments for the conservation of the wrought iron.

The significant issue affecting the iron frame is chloride ingress from water-saturated timbers; as a result, the frame has become subject to chloride attack and its resulting rust, pitting, and loss of section. It was suspected at first that the frame's structural integrity was at risk, but further examinations by the Cutty Sark Trust found that the hull and iron components were stable but in need of treatment.

The Cutty Sark Trust and Conservation Steering Group are now more dedicated than ever to completing this project. Investigations will have to be carried out to determine the extent of buckling and structural weakening of the frame. Any distortion, however slight, will pose a challenge when treatment is finished as the ship must be raised and reconstructed. Further information about this project, including the Trust's conservation guidelines and goals, may be found at www.cuttysark.org.uk.

- Gina Crevello, '98

New York Sun Highlights Columbia Preservation Alumni

In the May 2, 2007 edition of *The New York Sun*, several Columbia Preservation alumni were featured in an article on young professional preservationists in New York City. The article highlighted these individuals' dedication to preservation advocacy and discussed what initially attracted them to working in the field of preservation. Alumni profiled in the article included: Melissa Baldock, Director of Preservation and Research for the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation; Lisa Kersavage, a fellow at the Municipal Art Society; Kate Wood, Executive Director of Landmark West; and Seri Worden, Executive Director of Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts. Janet Foster, alumna and Associate Director for Urban Planning and Historic Preservation at GSAPP, was also quoted in the article.

To read the full article visit: http://www.ny-sun.com/article/53675?page_no=1

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in highly designed institutional, commercial and residential projects. She is currently working on the renovation of 2 Columbus Circle where she is overseeing the interior finishes and mechanical work. She is also involved with pre-construction for the new Parrish Art Museum facility designed by Herzog & de Meuron in Watermill, New York. Becca has served on the PA board for two and a half years.

Seri Worden, class of 2002, Treasurer. Seri is currently the Executive Director of Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts, where she is responsible for running all aspects of this non-profit organization which is dedicated to

preserving the architectural history of the Upper East Side. Her work includes preservation advocacy and education, special events planning, and financial management. Prior to working at Friends, Seri spent time as a preservation specialist at the Universidad de Buenos Aires, School of Architecture and has lectured in New York on preservation issues in Argentina.

Amy Diehl, class of 2003, will continue as Secretary of the organization.

Many thanks to our previous officers, **Jamie Schroeder, President,** and **Melissa Baldock, Treasurer,** for all of their hard work.

PA Provides Members With Access to the Inaccessible

PA recently treated its members to tours of two usually off-limits sites; the 1903 City Hall IRT subway station and the 1848 High Bridge.

On January 27th, transit historian James Cunningham led a tour of the City Hall IRT subway station exclusively for members of Preservation Alumni.

PA members marveled at the high level of detail invested in the station, designed by Heins & LaFarge, including Guastavino arches, colored glass tiles, and brass chandeliers. The station was the

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IRT City Hall Station

- Photo by Britton Baine, '04

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High Bridge and water tower

- Photo by Britton Baine, '04

TOURS (continued from p. 4)

original southern terminal of New York's Interborough Rapid Transit System and was designed to be a masterwork of the new subway system. It has been closed to the public since 1946.

On June 2nd, Columbia alumnus and Director of Historic Preservation for the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, John Krawchuk, and Coordinator of Interagency Planning for NYC Parks, Ellen Macnow, provided members with a tour of the City's oldest standing bridge, the High Bridge, which connects High Bridge Park near West 174th Street, Manhattan, and West 170th Street in the Bronx. The High Bridge Water Tower, and the

High Bridge pool complex, located on the Manhattan side, were also part of the tour. Though the bridge has been closed to the public since the 1960's, PA members had the unique experience of crossing it on a beautiful spring day.

The High Bridge was built to carry the old Croton Aqueduct over the Harlem River and was once part of the city's first reliable and uninterrupted water supply system. The bridge rises 116 feet above the river, with a total length of 1200 feet. It was designed with a pedestrian walkway above the Aqueduct.

It was recently announced that the bridge will be restored and re-

opened to the public, so this was a great opportunity to experience the bridge prior to the planned restoration.

If you're not already a member, join now so that you can be included in our "members only" events in the future. Stay tuned for an announcement of our next event!



IRT City Hall Station name plaque

- Photo by Britton Baine, '04

RECENT PRESERVATION ALUMNI TOURS

IRT City Hall Station skylight



- Photos by Britton Baine, '04



Inside the High Bridge water tower

View of High Bridge from the tower



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