

2003

## Preservation Eastern, April 2003

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# PRESERVATION EASTERN

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION SHINES THE 2003 GRADUATE RESEARCH FAIR

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EMU graduate students Michelle Sponseller, Tracey Jerome, Linda Van Koevering and Lottie Jones-Hood join Dr. Lauren Sickels-Taves at the 2003 Graduate Research Fair.

**Special points of interest:**

- Telephone registration is no longer available - see page 2 for more details
- May 2 is the PE end of year party - come and celebrate another fantastic year in historic preservation! *More details can be found on the back page of this newsletter.*
- Nominations for PE Officers is now taking place. Please turn in your nomination forms by April 25. Voting will take place at the PE End of Year Party (May 2).

The 2003 EMU Graduate Research Fair signaled a first for the historic preservation department. This year's fair was the first the field of historic preservation had its own session.

Chaired by Dr. Sickels-Taves, the graduate students presented a wide variety of subjects for their peers.

First to give their presentation was Tracy Jerome, who

discussed the exuberant style of Art Deco found in Singapore in between the World War I and II.

The next presenter was Lottie Jones-Hood who illustrated act of transcendence through the example of the Underground Railroad living history museum at the 1st Congregational Church in Detroit.

The third presentation was

given by Michelle Sponseller on the conservation of the cannon from the War of 1812 currently being studied in Dr. Sickels-Taves Material Conservation I class.

For the final presentation Linda Van Koevering presented her findings on the condition of two properties located in Franklin, MI researched for Dr. Ligibel's Documenting Historic Structures class.

## PRESERVATION EASTERN OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Candidates should have strong leadership skills, dedicated, drive & determination.

Forms are available from Dr. Ligibel or Dr. Sickels-Taves and are due by April 25.

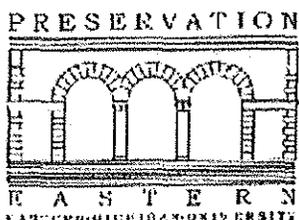
Voting will take place May 2 at the PE End of Year Party.

**Assistant Director:**

Investigates internship opportunities, notices of interest to members, responsible for guest lecture series, assumes responsibilities of full directorship in the event the director is absent.

**Communications Officer:**

Responsible for public relations and correspondence of said organization, notifying media (i.e. newspapers, radio stations and television). Maintains records, posts notices of meetings and works closely with the director.



## COBBLESTONE ARCHITECTURE

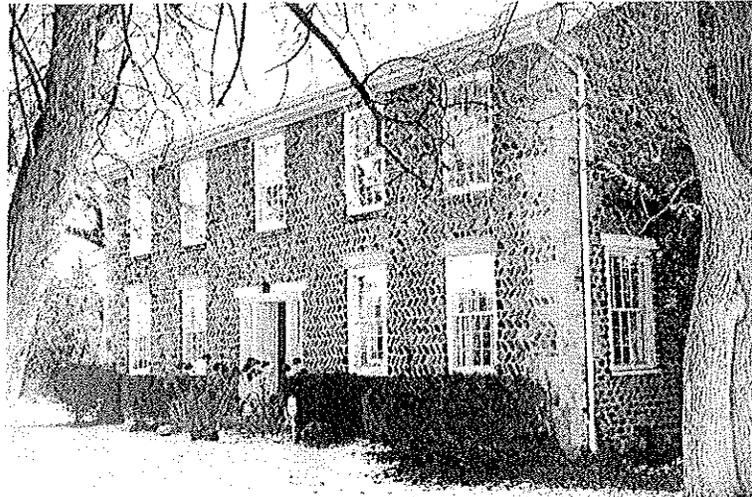
By: Carolyn Nelson

The movement of ice age glaciers are responsible for the large concentrations of coursed cobblestone homes found in Southeastern Michigan and Western Upstate New York, where the building technique is believed to have originated. After the completion of the canal in 1825, dozens of these homes were built paralleling the canal from Rochester to Buffalo by newly unemployed canal masons. Others migrated west and continued the trend. Southeastern Michigan has an abundance of homes that employ this unique folk art construction technique. Former Eastern Michigan University graduate student Joan Boddie documented twelve remaining homes in Washtenaw County alone, many of whose original owners had come from Upstate New York.

Construction techniques vary, but all homes possess the signature stone quoins and most have stone lintels over windows and doors. The coursed cobblestone method is a result of glacial activity that produced an ideal combination of stone, and the lime and sand to make a premium mortar. Stone sizes ranging two to six

or more inches are laid in straight courses or diagonally creating a herringbone pattern. Stone colors can be a variety of colors from brown to pink or yellow and gray, the later two signifying glacial activity.

Three types of wall construction are



generally found. The earliest is a rubble wall where an inside random stone and outside coursed wall are erected simultaneously. Second was a modified version using longer anchor stones periodically extending into the central core. The later technique, most susceptible to weather damage, assembled interior wall first and added a coursed cobblestone veneer wall later.

Likely originating due to economy, aesthetics and availability of canal masons, coursed cobblestone homes had a limited construction period from 1825 to 1860. The construction style made economical use of the abundant stones dredged up in newly plowed fields. Aesthetically pleasing the

method was time consuming due to stone sizing and ensuring level and uniform coursing. This may explain why large numbers of homes have only coursed front facades and side-walls where other less visible sides are random fieldstone.

Debate surrounds the demise of this short-lived folk art building technique. One is that masons never in-

structed a new generation, but studies reveal that few masons build more than three coursed cobblestone houses and mortar were often published in farmer's journals. It is more likely that as railroads and powered saw-mills reduced the cost of building materials Americans embracing industrialization chose the less time consuming construction methods.

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## NOTES...NOTES...NOTES...

- ⇒ REMINDER: Beginning in March, all registration will be handled online. In order to be able to register for classes, you will need to activate your new my.emich account with the university. If you haven't already done so and you need advice see Dr. Ligibel or call the Help Desk at 487-2120. **Telephone registration is no longer available!**
- ⇒ Volunteers are needed to work at the upcoming *Michigan Historic Preservation Network* annual meeting in Kalamazoo. You will be able to enjoy reduced fees for the conference if you can donate some time. The conference dates are April 23 to 26. Please see Dr. Ligibel for further details.
- ⇒ There is a new National Register Bulletin out. The title is "Historic Residential Neighborhoods". Look for it [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) for more details.

## DR. TED'S TIME

In the next few days you will be able to start signing up for classes in the Spring, Summer, and Fall terms. Remember you have to do this online now, as phone registration has been eliminated. If you're having problems, you can call the Registration Helpline at (734) 487-2300. Good Luck!

Included in this newsletter is an insert with information in Spring, Summer and Fall 2003 schedules. Remember that all courses are now listed alphabetically by program name in the schedule books, not by Department as before. Therefore our courses are listed under 'Historic Preservation' in the H section, with the GHPR prefix, while our GEOG prefix courses are listed in the G section of the booklets under Geography.

Lastly, I want to welcome the six new students who have entered the program officially this term. They are Debra Adamcik, Rick Kuss, Lisa Lynde, Susan Obert, Deborah Sanchez, and Jennifer Wendler. Please introduce yourself and make them feel welcome.

### Alumni Luminaries

**Neva Baron (1999)** Former director of Preservation Eastern, is still at EMU, but now in an employment capacity. She is an Academic Advisor I for the College of Arts & Sciences Advising Center, and regularly refers potential students to our program.

**Phil Smith (1999)** Also a former director of Preservation Eastern, is working as an Environmental Educator for the Howell Nature Center in Howell, Mi. His long-standing interest in conservation and preservation serves him well for the team building and environmental programming he offers. He also coordinates overnight tours of "The Global Village", which affords people a chance to experience how others live in the world with limited resources.

**Darrin VonStein (1998)** Lives in Brooklyn, NY and works at "Prints Charming", a dealer in 18th and 19th Century prints. He also is preparing a manuscript about the influential Hartford and New York architect, Francis H. Kimball, who was considered the most important theater architect in New York at the turn-of-the-19th Century. His plans are for publication next year.

**Monica Kuhn (1999)** Has just been named the Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Columbus, OH. Previously she has worked in the city's historic preservation office primarily in the German Village Historic District. This is a major career advancement for Monica, and is one of the 'jewels in our crown' of high-level placements. Congratulations Monica!

**Ed Rice (1999)** Is teaching history and geography for the Social Sciences Departments of McComb Community College in Warren, MI. This summer he has plans to attend the prestigious Summer Session in London sponsored by the Victorian Society of America.

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### SPRING and SUMMER 2003 TERMS

There will be several options for you to pursue this spring and summer:

- The **Fayette Field School (GHPR 636: Historic Preservation Field Project)** will be offered again this year. Prior to going to Fayette there will be three sessions held here on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>; these likely will be held on campus though one session may be held off campus. The on-site portion of the course at Fayette will be offered in two one-week sessions from June 15<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> and from June 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>. You may opt to attend on either Week I or Week II or you can choose to attend both weeks. Each week will be dedicated to different building issues. Final details will be available in March, but I wanted you to have the dates for planning purposes.
- The Traverse City class (**GEOG 695; Seminar in Regional Preservation Issues**) will be offered from August 9<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup> in Traverse City. We will spend the week addressing real preservation issues and will become heavily involved in at least one of these issues. Again, final details will be forthcoming in March and through the Schedule books.
- Other options could include either the History 123 or 124 prerequisites, both of which always are offered in the spring/summer terms. This may also be a good time to sign up for any Independent Studies, Internships, or Final Preservation Projects that you have been contemplating. As always, please see your advisors to be sure.

## AT A GLANCE...

By Lisa Lynde and reprinted courtesy of Preservation in Print, Preservation Resource of New Orleans

**To Preserve or Not To Preserve....** That is the question — at least in the case of Reno, Nevada's notorious Mustang Ranch. Three years ago Nevada's first legal brothel was seized by the federal government and has remained unused since. The Bureau for Land Management now has plans to demolish the main pink stucco structure and a small adjacent building. While initially the BLM considered possibly redeveloping the property as a home for battered women, the organization now states it will cost too much money to rehabilitate the buildings.

<http://www.cnn.com>

**The Mansionization of America** Happening all over the country, tear-downs have been targeted by the National Trust as one of the most serious problems facing the nation. What exactly is a tear-down? It's when developers, who have run out of available vacant land, purchase older and smaller homes for the purpose of demolition. Once the home has been demolished they build a suburban style structure in its place — destroying the integrity of the existing neighborhood. "If the house was a model, she would be size 12 trying to fit into a size eight".

In Atlanta the problem has been rampant. Current zoning laws allow builders to construct massive houses as long as they are set back 50 feet from the street and 10 feet from the neighboring homes. Which means many of the homes are being built take up over 50% of the lot space. Many neighborhoods have sought historic district status, but sadly many have been turned down by the city's Urban Design Commission.

Santa Monica, California has the same problem as well. "One day a modest mediterranean or craftsman home; the next day, a pile of rubble, and the next month, a stucco soufflé setting new standards for bad taste." Here they have been battling the tear-down epidemic since the 1980s and now there is a new proposition that would make it even easier to demolish and degrade/upgrade existing homes.

<http://www.kcrw.com> and <http://www.ajc.com>

**Elsewhere in Atlanta...** Smaller church graveyards and private family graveyards are being threatened by the unbridled growth. While state regulations require developers to plan for development by marking graves or removing remains, many older sites — such as Native American burial grounds and those without caskets (such as slave burial grounds) are being overlooked. The issue is becoming more urgent and developers now eye areas previously the domain of 19<sup>th</sup> century farmers. Most of the land has reforested over the years hiding family plots in a forest of trees.

<http://www.ajc.com>

**Is there hope for Havana?** Preservationists are concerned that perhaps there isn't. Cash-flush developers have lined up to get in once the 40 year embargo by the US is lifted. While the government has spent millions of dollars on restoring Old Havana, the city's colonial-era neighborhood, the area surrounding it is falling apart. They fear in place of once grand homes, there will be sea of generic glass office buildings and shopping malls. The non-profit group Urbanists International is working with the Cuban government, providing planning tools to assist in the preservation of this unique historic city in a culturally compatible way.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com>

**Wal-Mart Takes a Holiday** Citizens of Holiday, Florida are hoping this doesn't happen. Residents have banded together to fight the proposed Wal-Mart Supercenter. The 30 acre area is currently home to an extensive gopher tortoise habitat, dozens of old oak trees, a wetland and a Native American burial ground. Developers are also eyeing several homes to purchase and demolish to allow for a wider road for their delivery trucks.

<http://www.sprawl-busters.com>

**The "Black Eden" Returns** In Idlewild, a community north of Grand Rapids, Michigan, local residents and preservationists are fighting to preserve this African American resort community. In 1912 entrepreneurs, in response to a segregated culture, built a 2,700 acre black-only vacation retreat. The resort was the vacation retreat for affluent families, writers and musicians such as C. J. Walker, Langston Hughes and Count Basie. But 30 years later, the state has razed many of the jazz-era hotels and theaters, and the summer population has dropped from 12,000 (in the 1950's) to only 750 full time residents. But the situation is turning around. Resident John Meeks, purchased and developed Morton's Motel and local bars and shops have followed his example. Last year the town held its first Jazz and Blue Heritage Festival, which was a resounding success — bringing over 1,600 visitors into the town. This year there are plans to add a second festival and sponsor a Fourth of July parade. While the town may never recapture its jazz age glory, the future looks bright for "Idlewilders".

<http://www.detnews.com>

**Other African American Sites fight to remain alive** Although a great deal of progress has been made towards the preservation of important African American cultural sites, many cities across the country are struggling to preserve them.

In Chicago, the Rosenwald Apartments have been scheduled for demolition by the city. One of the first mixed-use housing developments, the Rosenwald Apartments, once home to affluent African Americans such as Joe Louis, have fallen into disrepair. The MidSouth Planning Commission is struggling to reverse this decision. "One of the things we are fed up with is, if other people take their children through their neighborhoods, they can point out and say that's where aunt so-and-so got married, or that's where I went to school. All we can say is, 'That's where something used to be.' "

South Jersey communities are finding their African American churches are struggling to work with aging structures and graying congregations. In Mount Laurel, a congregation established by former slaves in 1813, saw its congregation dwindle to 85. Rev. Joyce Hickman remembers during the 1970s she could see the outside through cracks in the wall. The church has since patched its walls, but members must go next door to use the bathroom. The church wants to restore its structure but no government funding is available. And in Woolwich, the Mount Zion AME, has a congregation of only about 20 people. The church's heater is broken and the water pipes have burst, but the church is on the national and state register because it was a stop on the Underground Railroad.

<http://www.mlive.com> and <http://www.courierpostonline.com>

**"A Threat Comes To Pass"** In Red Mountain, Colorado, Frank Baumgartner finally kept his word. When a dispute regarding land use with the state wasn't settled to his satisfaction he bulldozed several historic buildings on his 1,600 acres. The ghost town of Red Mountain, a former mining community, is now without the Kohler-Longfellow boarding house and the manager's residence. "It was a kick in the stomach," said Bob Risch, of the Red Mountain Task Force. Just two years earlier they had worked to stabilize the structures, with Baumgartner's consent.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org>

**The Economics of Historic Preservation** The consulting firm of Urban Prospects recently released a study, commissioned by the city of Oklahoma City, detailing the profound economic impact historic preservation has on a community. They found Main Street Programs returned \$35 for every dollar invested in operating the program. In Texas, where the firm is based, they found preservation generates more than \$1.4 billion in economic activity and supports almost 41,000 jobs. In areas that are designated as historic districts, property values have risen 5 to 20 percent because an individual's property investment is "protected" by restrictions placed on neighboring properties.

<http://www.knowledgeplex.org>

**The Arch is Threatened** No, not the St. Louis Arch, but perhaps one just as important, at least to the residents of Los Robles in Tallahassee, Florida. The arch, entrance to one of the city's oldest neighborhoods, and a designated landmark, is rapidly deteriorating. The stucco is cracking, parts of the roof have been torn apart and it has been barricaded so pedestrians and vehicles cannot drive underneath. Preliminary estimates showed it could cost up to \$250,000 to restore the arch, so the city is seeking a plan for removal of the arch. Residents now have just a few weeks to try and organize a plan for restoration with the assistance of the Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation.

<http://www.tallahassee.com>

## JOBS, INTERNSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Pioneer Society of America - Warren E. Roberts Graduate Student Paper Competition

National Trust for Historic Preservation - Emerging Preservation Leadership Scholarship for Annual Conference

Gross Pointe Farms - Seeking assistance in researching potential historic districts

Detroit Historical Museums and Society - Graduate Fellowship in historic site supervision.

Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation - Summer Internship

Student Conservation Association - Conservation Internships

Preservation Institute - Summer Program in Nantucket

National Trust for Historic Preservation - Summer Internship at the Washington DC office

Adirondack Architectural Heritage - Summer Internships in the Adirondacks

Milan Area Historical Society - Grant Writer/Coordinator and Collections Manager Needed

Association for Preservation Technology - Student Scholarships available for 2003 Conference in Portland Maine

**\*\*Details for all of these can be found on the bulletin board outside Dr. Ligibel and Dr. Sickels-Taves offices\*\***

### Congratulations

Congratulations are in order for the following 2003 Award and Scholarship winners from the Historic Preservation Dept.

**Meritorious Awards** - Given to new graduate students who demonstrated leadership and meritorious accomplishments during their undergraduate experience or post-baccalaureate personal or professional career.

Lottie Jones-Hood  
Cassandra Nelson  
Jon Ottman

**University Fellowships** - The graduate Fellowship Program has been established at EMU to recognize and encourage superior academic work at the graduate level and provide financial assistance for outstanding graduate students. Applicants must be admitted to the graduate program and have a cumulative undergraduate or graduate grade point average of 3.6.

Moira Boehm  
Aletha Lippay  
Jennifer Wendler

### MAIN STREET IS BACK

By: Paul Janostak and Brian Lijewski

For the last several years, those cities with Main Street programs in Michigan have had to work without official support from the state.

That is all set to change this year as a partnership of three state agencies have unveiled a Michigan Main Street Program. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the State Historic Preservation Office and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) held four workshops throughout the state in January to generate interest in the program. And generate interest they did, as twenty-one communities sent in letters of intent. The next step is for communities to turn in applications before the April 4<sup>th</sup> deadline. Day-to-day management of the program will be handled by the MEDC.

In return for support from the state and the National Main Street Center, communities chosen to participate will be required to set aside funds for hiring a program manager for their municipality. For those about to graduate with a concentration in Planning, this could open up some new opportunities. For more information about the program, contact Bryan Lijewski at the SHPO at 517-373-1630 or by email at [lijewskib@michigan.gov](mailto:lijewskib@michigan.gov).

# Calendar of Events

April 4	PE Speakers Series: Trent Margrif, Director the Preservation Oklahoma, EMU graduate (2000) will be here to discuss what it's like in the "real world" when it comes to working in the field of historic preservation. 7:30 - 9:00pm in King Hall
April 5	PE Tour: Ft. Wayne in Detroit. 2:00pm at Ft. Wayne. Contact Dr. Ligibel if you need directions
April 7	EMU Excellence Awards McKenny Union (Tower Room) at 3:30pm Program is to recognize students receiving awards or scholarships and is open and free to all students. There will also be a short video on Elwood Kureth, former department head. Snacks buffet will be provided.
April 17 - 20	EMU spring break
April 24 - 26 Kalamazoo, MI	Michigan Preservation Network Annual Conference <i>The Politics of Preservation - Preservation &amp; Public Policy</i> <a href="http://www.mhpn.org">www.mhpn.org</a> for more details
April 29 - 30 Chicago, IL	Section 106 Review - Introduction Workshop Chicago, IL Visit <a href="http://www.dce.unr.edu/hrm">www.dce.unr.edu/hrm</a> or call (775) 784-4046
May 2 Sidetrack Restaurant, Ypsilanti	PE Year-End Party with speaker Marshall McLennan. See page ??? For more details...
May 5	EMU spring classes begin
May 5 - 11	National Preservation Week
June 5, 10 and 12	GHPR 636 - Fayette Field School Prep Sessions
June 15 - 21	GHPR 636 - Fayette Field School (Fayette, MI) Part I Contact Dr. Ligibel for more details...
June 22 - 28	GHPR 636 - Fayette Field School (Fayette, MI) Part II Contact Dr. Ligibel for more details...
August 9 - 16	GEOG 695 - Seminar in Regional Preservation Issues (Traverse City, MI) Contact Dr. Ligibel for more details...
August 9-10	Air Display 2003 - come and see some of the greatest warbirds ever created. Yankee Air Museum (734) 384-4030 Ext. 200
August 16	Historic Movie Palaces Tour with Preservation Wayne  Take an unforgettable tour in Detroit fantastic theaters - visit the State, Michigan, Opera House, Music Hall, Gem, Century and Fox. Visit the PW web site for complete details. <a href="http://www.preservationwayne.org/tours">www.preservationwayne.org/tours</a>
September 17 - 20 Portland, ME	APT Annual Conference <a href="http://www.apr.org">www.apr.org</a>
September 30 - October 5 Denver, CO	National Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Conference <a href="http://www.nthp.org">www.nthp.org</a>

Do you have an event you'd like to tell EMU Historic Preservation students, faculty and friends about?

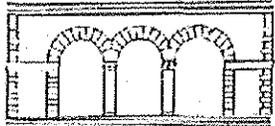
Send an email with the pertinent details to [preservationeastern@yahoo.com](mailto:preservationeastern@yahoo.com)

Don't forget to keep in touch with Preservation Eastern!

If you are a member of the Preservation Eastern Yahoo! Group, you will receive an official announcement via the email group regarding PE related events and activities.

If you are not a member of the Yahoo! Group, please send an e-mail to: "[preservationeastern@yahoo.com](mailto:preservationeastern@yahoo.com)" with your name and e-mail information and we will sign you up!

#### PRESERVATION



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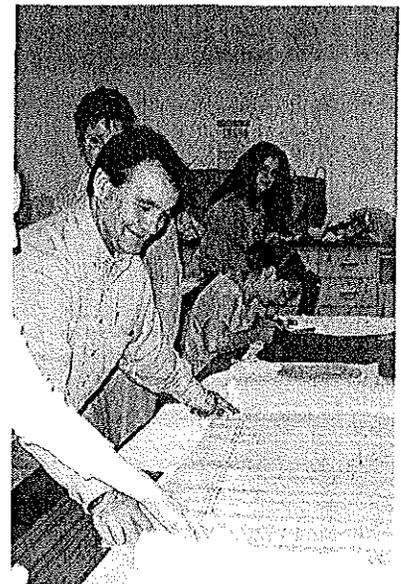


#### Dr. Sickels-Taves Leads Workshop on Conservation Techniques

Friday, March 21 at EMU was the Yankee Air Museum day for students of Dr. Sickels-Taves Material Conservation I class.

For this hands-on workshop students learned how to complete such varied conservation work as:

- Paper repair
- Humidification of blueprints
- Textile repairs to WWI uniform
- Testing of ink solubility
- Cleaning brass buttons on WWII dress jacket
- Reconditioning leather on WWII bomber jacket



### PE End of Year Party

Come and celebrate another terrific year in preservation at the Preservation Eastern end-of-year party on Friday, May 2nd. This year's party will be held at Frenchie's restaurant, located next door to Sidetrack's Bar and Grill in Depot Town (Ypsilanti). The celebration gets started at 6:30pm and will end sometime around 10:00pm

There will be good conversation, food, and merriment for all who are able to attend.

Door prizes will be given to lucky winners and a cash bar will be provided.

Cost is \$16.00 per person. Please fill out the form below and give to Dr. Ligibel or Paul Janostak on or before April 25. Payments via check can be made to "Preservation Eastern".

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Total (checks only please): \_\_\_\_\_

**Act Now - Seating is Limited**