Hello!

The Preservation Eastern board members want to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning students to Eastern Michigan University’s Historic Preservation program. If you are unfamiliar with Preservation Eastern, we are a student-led 501(c)3 organization and EMUHPP’s only student organization. We strive to create interesting and educational experiences for our members through architectural and behind-the-scenes museum tours, facilitate networking between our members and area preservation and museum professionals, as well as provide social opportunities so that we can all get to know one another a little better. As you will likely hear often, the students in this program will become your coworkers and colleagues and, as such, it’s hugely beneficial to develop relationships now.

Preservation Eastern has had an extremely successful start to the year and it seems that it will only get better as the year goes on. September’s event, a tour of Historic Fort Wayne and the Detroit Historical Society, opened many people’s eyes to the significant resources that are only just around the corner. The trip to the Alden B. Dow Home and Studio in Midland shed light on the emerging issue of recent past preservation and offered the opportunity for students to actually watch a home film about Taliesin in the Dow family’s personal theatre. In the coming weeks, we will hear Henry Guthard speak about modernist Minoru Yamasaki’s legacy, journey to the Magic Museum in Marshall and meet numerous area professionals at our networking mixer. I want to thank all of you for your support and participation in Preservation Eastern’s activities these past few months and invite everyone to join us for our upcoming meetings, events and socials. As always, if you have any questions or would like to become involved in Preservation Eastern, please feel free to reach out to any one of us. Here’s to another great semester!

Katherine Kirby
Director, Preservation Eastern
WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME NEW STUDENTS FOR FALL 2013
We admitted 19 new students into the Historic Preservation Program for the Fall term!

ORIENTATION
Our annual New Student Orientation on was held on September 6th at historic Sherzer Hall under the careful aegis of our new Preservation Eastern Board. EMU Provost Kim Scahtzel and her husband joined us for dinner and made a few remarks. The evening also included the annual visit to the open deck atop Sherzer hosted by the Astronomy Department. Different this year was the invitation by the HP Alumni Chapter to join them at Corner Brewery following Orientation where they had just elected new officers for the year.

ALUMNI CHAPTER
Speaking of the Alumni Chapter, we congratulate the new officers for 2013-14 who are:
President Marcus Schwimmer
Vice President Lindsey Wooten
Communications Katie Remensnyder
Financial Officer open
Alumni Relations Tamara Forró
Programming Chair Kari Smith
Programming Vice Chair Tyler Wolfe
Member at Large Susann DeVries

GRADUATING STUDENTS
Also, please congratulate our newest Alumni, the Winter and Summer 2013 term graduates: Dawn Bilobran, Robin Derminer, Erik Krogol, Juliana Lew, Kim Long, Melinda Ortiz, Sara Sharpe, Matt Siegfried, Creager Smith, and Lindsey Wooten.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS
The Historic Preservation Departmental Graduate Assistants (GAs) this year are Amanda Wetzel and Ginny Schomisch who are returning GAs, and Steven Stuckey who is new to us this year.

A number of students hold paying agency-sponsored GAs or Internships, including MDOT (Sarah Marsom), the City of Ypsilanti (Cynthia Kochanek), two positions with the Ypsilanti Historical Society one of which is supported by the EMU President’s Office (Kaila Barr and Melanie Parker), and Janell Keyser who is our GA with the Michigan Historical Center for the Michigan Historic Marker program.

NEW FACULTY
We are pleased to announce that a new faculty joined the Geography & Geology Department this Fall, replacing Dr. Gabe Cherem. Dr. Kim Kozak is a Tourism Geography Specialist. Dr. Kozak will be teaching some of our HP tourism courses, including the Historic Preservation & Tourism (GHPR 538) this fall term and Cultural Tourism Recourses (GEOG 445) in winter 2014. Welcome Dr. Kozak!
NATIONAL TRUST for HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

This year Scott Slagor and Nichole VanBlaricum were awarded a Diversity Scholarships to attend the National Trust Annual Conference in Indianapolis. Scott also presented at the conference in a “Power Session” entitled Detroit Reconnaissance Survey: Cultural Resource Identification. Both represented EMU and the HP Program very well.

Other current students who attended were Mallory Bowers, Amara Frontczak, Megan Gilbert, Sarah Marsom, Shelly Neitzel, and Ginny Schomisch.

Alumni seen or heard at the conference included: Sharon Ferraro, Jessica Williams Flores, James Gabbert, Mary Ann Heidemann, Kirk Huffaker, Trent Margrif, Jessica Puff, Frank Quinn, Creager Smith, and Bob Young.

Recent Hires!

Selected recent positions gained by HP Program Alumni include:

- Mary Ann Heidemann (‘09): Director, Ball State University, Historic Preservation Graduate Program
- Kimmie Dobos (‘13): Curator, Pewabic Pottery, Detroit
- Paula Bedford (‘11): Development Assistant, Henry Ford Estate (now known as Historic Ford Estates), Dearborn
- Devon Akmon (‘05): Director, Arab American National Museum, Dearborn
- Connie Locker (‘12): Exhibit Coordinator, Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, Grosse Pointe Shores
- Kate Morland (‘12): Docent Coordinator, Toledo Museum of Art
- Rachel Bankowitz (‘05): Preservation Planner, City of Dayton, Ohio
- Anthony Timek (‘09): Collections Manager, Rutger’s University Library of Science and Medicine
- Juliana Rachel Lew Wescott (‘13): Exhibit Designer, University of Michigan

It will interest many that two of our Alums now run well-known Historic Preservation Graduate Programs: Dr. Mary Ann Heidemann at Ball State University and Professor Bob Young at the University of Utah. We are very proud of both of these remarkable individuals!

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Should you have any questions, concerns, comments, etc., please contact me, Professors Dan Bonenberger or Nancy Bryk.

Here’s looking ahead to another great year...
our 34th year of exceptional preservation education!!
Dr. Ted

Left to right: Duncan Campbell, Ted Ligibel, and & Henry Glassie

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An article in the August 2013 issue of Hour Detroit listed "101 Things Every Detroiter Should Do." The list ranged from reminiscing Detroit history (#080 An American Classic; the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House), indulging in culture (#002 Complain about the Lions), shopping (#019 Find It Fresh at Eastern Market), finding nature (#027 Paddle the "Strait"), to making a positive difference (#046 Slurp Soup for a Cause). The list turns the heart of Detroit into an adventure, numbering each activity that Detroiter praise, boast, and label as their favorite things. I am positive that everyone will find something on that list he will hold to higher significance than any other. One may also find something missing from the list. Here is my amendment to the list: #102 Tours of Historic Fort Wayne.

September 20, 2013 marked the beginning of Eastern Michigan University’s Preservation Eastern’s 2013-2014 Events. An event exploring over 300 years of history, including Military, Native Americans, Automotive and significant Detroit History, the Historic Fort Wayne Tours organized by Preservation Eastern consisted of two tours. The first tour was of the Historic Fort Wayne (HFW) grounds and barracks was led by James Conway. The second tour, led by Adam Lovett, was of the Detroit Historical Society’s Culture Resource Center (CRC).

The first tour began at 10:00AM, where twelve eager individuals crowded around an eight person conference table headed by Conway as he pulled out resource after resource depicting the vast history of HFW. The mini-lecture gave a brief synopsis of the history, beginning with Captain Antoine De La Mothe Cadillac and the establishment of a fur trading post on the grounds and ending with the current efforts of the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition to preserve the history through restoration and preservation efforts. The entire history is depicted in Detroit’s Historic Fort Wayne by James Conway and David F. Jamroz, part of the Images of America Series from Arcadia Publishing. The Coalition also brings many events to HFW which are open to the public. Such events include vintage baseball games, ghost hunts, re-enactments and more. More information can be found on the website; www.historicfortwaynecoalition.com.

After a short lunch the second tour began. The CRC is housed in the 1940s structure, adapted from an original vehicle parts and maintenance depot. The 94,000 square feet of storage space houses 250,000 artifacts for the Detroit Historical Society (DHS). These artifacts are put on exhibit by the DHS, the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, traveling exhibits, and on loan to multiple museums and facilities throughout the country. The vast collection is made up of objects both large and small; from button pins to automobiles. The collection also includes an archive and library. Each artifact depicts a small story in Detroit’s history.

The Hour Detroit article presents a checklist of things to do; some of those boxes will be checked just once, others will be revisited so often that Mayorship (Foursquare) is a daily competition. The Tours of Historic Fort Wayne should be the latter. The amount of history one can discover at Detroit’s Historic Fort Wayne and the Detroit Historical Society’s Culture Resource Center is never-ending, and simply one visit will not suffice.
Field School was held this past May at the Campbell-DeYoung farmstead for the fifth consecutive year. Twenty-three students spent Sunday evening through Friday afternoon in the Traverse City area practicing “hands-on” historic preservation. Sunday started with the drive up for most of us, and an introduction to what we would be doing the rest of the week at the Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) campus. Monday meant an introduction to the site with a morning hike and work started that afternoon. Most days were spent at the Campbell-DeYoung farm working on or in the house and the barn closest to the house (upper barn). We stripped the old paint off of the house, added primer, and painted it. Some students, under the guidance of Professor Nancy Bryk worked on labels for many of the structures at the farm, and helped with research and interpretation of the site. Other students worked on the barn foundation with Historic Preservation program alumni Steve Stier as our instructor. We learned about archeology from Stacy Tchorzynski from the State Historic Preservation Office. Our last day on the site was highlighted by watching or participating in the raising of the new barn door for the upper barn which was built during our time at the site. We met many interesting people and worked side-by-side on projects that many of us had not attempted before. Many of the days were cold and rainy; in fact some of the nicest days (for weather) were the first and last days of Field School.

Field School was not only a way to learn and do new things, but it also brought many of us closer; if you didn’t know someone before Field School, chances are you at least had a better acquaintance with them after. Whether it was the delight that your classmates took in the partial destruction of the barn floor in search of a source of water that was inundating the barn foundation, or hearing the story of one of your fellow students getting paint washed out of her hair in the stream next to the house, it all meant that we had more shared stories and experiences.

While the cold, rainy conditions along with a lack of sleep and caffeine intake may not have made for the happiest versions of our everyday selves, there were many memorable experiences and much to smile and feel accomplished about. This was an experience that really did help pull us out of the cerebral learning environment and into the real world practice of Historic Preservation. Field School was eating lunch on the dock next to a peaceful lake or experiencing the relief of taking off your work boots after a long day. It was the feeling of accomplishment you had driving away from an old farmhouse on the last day of Field School that you had helped to give a fresh look with a few coats of paint. Field School is not an experience that any of us will soon forget.

DeYoung Farmstead, Traverse City

Photographs taken by Stefanie Bozinoski
This summer, I was provided the incredible opportunity to work and play in one of the world’s most breathtaking locales: Denali National Park and Preserve. My daily commute consisted of driving some eighteen miles into the park, seeing Mount McKinley when it wasn’t shrouded in clouds, and occasionally trailing a bull moose as it ambled down the median. My position was as a living history interpreter for the concessionaire, the Doyon/Aramark Joint Venture. Stationed at Savage Cabin, the oldest in-service cabin within the national park, I conducted interpretive programs for the tens of thousands of visitors taking part in the Denali Natural History Tour. Arriving in early May, I was treated to frigid temperatures and snowfall that lasted well into June; the same conditions dogged me in my final weeks in the interior of Alaska. Luckily, my contract ended a mere week before the looming government shutdown would have rendered me redundant anyway.

In addition to the honor of interacting with visitors from across the globe, I was treated to spectacular scenery each day, as well as the occasional wildlife encounter. While there were no up-close grizzly encounters like last year, moose and caribou abounded. One particularly memorable shift involved a first-year calf walking up to the porch of the cabin immediately prior to my first tour of the day. For nearly a minute, the two of us gazed upon one another, separated by mere feet.

Savage Cabin was originally constructed between 1924 and 1925, the first of five cabins constructed by the Alaska Road Commission (ARC). The ARC was the agency tasked with constructing the 92-mile park road connecting the park entrance with the small mining community of Kantishna. The cabin was originally a dogtrot, with two 14’x16’ cribs. In 1940, some years after the road crews no longer needed it as a cookhouse and dining hall, the cabin was moved at the behest of then-Park Superintendent, Frank Been. Been, evidently an unpopular figure among his underlings, deemed the cabin an eyesore. Prior to its relocation, the cabin was cut literally in half, and so exists now as a single-crib building. As a result of its alterations, Savage Cabin is the only ARC-constructed cabins not on the National Register of Historic Places. With the exception of cedar shakes installed over the tar paper-covered roof, little has changed since that time.

During the long and brutally cold winters typical of the interior of Alaska, the modest Savage Cabin continues to serve Denali National Park and Preserve. When the cabins were constructed, they were strategically built at roughly 10-15 mile intervals along the park road. This was done in accordance with the desire of the NPS to have them function as overnight stops on winter patrols. Denali National Park and Preserve is the only unit within the NPS to maintain a team of sled dogs, which have been used, to some extent, since the early 1920s. These canine rangers enchant visitors from May through September in daily demonstrations, but they have more serious work ahead of them. In winter, they travel thousands of miles, hauling equipment and supplies wherever needed; their human companions also monitor scientific equipment throughout the park, mark boundary lines, and provide a friendly presence for the visitors who ski and snowshoe in. Snowmobiles are barred in order to protect the soundscape and the delicate tundra ecosystem.

In the early years of Mt. McKinley National Park (it was renamed in 1980 to reflect the Athabascan name for “the high one”) rangers like Fritz Nyberg and Grant Pearson spent nearly the entirety of their winters patrolling, attempting to thwart the poaching that plagued the park. They bedded down for the night underneath spruce trees with overhanging branches, bringing their dogs close for warmth. For them, four walls and a roof were a considerable upgrade. In addition to shelter, these cabins offered respite from the unrelenting winds and temperatures that might reach -50 degrees. The work was lonely and low-paid, and patrols often lasted several months at a time. In his memoir, My Life of High Adventure, Pearson noted that another of the ARC cabins featured “a big iron range, plenty of cooking utensils, dishes, two springs cots and mattresses.” In discomfort and isolation, such seemingly meager creature comforts surely provided a sense of refuge.

And so Savage Cabin, and Denali National Park and Preserve, became a refuge for me as well. Every day on the job, I experienced the unfathomable expanse of scenery, the wildlife, and an exquisite stillness as I waited for visitors to arrive. Those in the program who know me (with my boisterous personality that would probably be all of you) understand I prefer the wilderness to the city, and the humble to the high-style. By working at Savage Cabin over the past five months, I have been paid for the privilege to enjoy both.
Leelanau County is familiar to all students in the Historic Preservation Program at Eastern Michigan University as the site of the Campbell-DeYoung Farm, the home of Field School for the past several years. On the far western side of Leelanau County is Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, voted Good Morning America’s most beautiful place in the U.S. in 2011. Within the National Lakeshore is the Port Oneida Rural Historic District, a historic agricultural landscape listed on the National Register in 1997 (period of significance 1870-1945). Within the 3,400 acres of Port Oneida are fourteen National Park Service-owned farms and four NPS-owned barns, one of which is the John Burfiend Barn.

The annual Port Oneida Fair is a celebration of rural arts and culture held during the second weekend of August. Four farmsteads, one barn, and the schoolhouse are open for demonstrations, tours, oral history recording, music, and food. This year, the John Burfiend barn, circa 1885, was open as NPS staff explained post-and-beam construction, assisted children in making wooden pegs, and a group of three musicians played traditional music inside the barn.

The day was one of those magnificent summer days where the cloudless sky reflects the sapphire Lake Michigan and creates a blue unique to Leelanau, Leland Blue. That afternoon both sets of barn doors were open to the threshing floor. They framed the luminous sky and allowed the slightest and most unnecessary of breezes to drift through the cool, dark English-style barn. The trio of musicians, two violinists, and a guitar player were playing a beautiful old waltz as three or four people sat on a bench dreamily listening. One woman, the wife of the guitar player, danced alone in a corner as the music filtered through the rafters and hung in the air with the dust and memories. Roused from his reverie, a very elderly man rose slowly from the bench. He carefully made his way across the uneven planking to where the woman was dancing alone and offered her his hand. She smiled, and then taking his hand, she led him to the middle of the threshing floor where the pair began a graceful, elegant waltz to the elegiac strains of the music. Backlit by the glow of the late afternoon sun through the open barn door, the couple glided across the scarred boards as if they had been dancing together since the barn was built. Everyone in the barn was transfixed by the elderly gentleman as he grew younger and straighter with each step and turn. As the waltz finally ended, he bowed gallantly to his partner and returned to his seat on the bench.

Those who know these old barns know the beauty in the symmetry and order of their construction. They acquire another kind of beauty from the patina of age and use. Barns are integrally related to how we see our past, yet these centers of farm life are disappearing from the landscape. The Burfiend Barn is a reminder of what these barns can be in their second centuries of life, and organizations like Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear work in conjunction with the NPS to make it possible for these places to remain in the rural landscape for all of us to experience.
Imagine venturing into a basement workshop of an 1859 Italianate house—original fieldstone foundation and all—filled with an eclectic mix of hand and electric tools. Smells of sawdust and primer fill the air while visions of craftsmen hand-planning wood boards overtake the mind. Then a gruff “Hello” suddenly breaks your focus, coming from a middle-aged, restoration icon sitting on a workbench, sipping French roast coffee that seems more like motor oil than a beverage. Bob Yapp’s greeting the first day of his Window Restoration and Weatherization Workshop at the Belvedere School for Hands-On Preservation in Hannibal, Missouri was as memorable as the skills I learned. The following words are my attempt to articulate my window restoration experience, as well as explain the value of the other side of historic preservation—hands-on training.

After initial introductions and a brief explanation in workshop safety, Bob lead the class of mostly building owners and one fellow from Tennessee’s State Historic Preservation Office to the slave quarters of the original owners of the Italianate. After maneuvering around the active restoration site, my class ended up in a back bedroom that had four original, six-over-six, double-hung wood windows with pins. He split the twelve students into equal teams and carefully instructed each group in his techniques for safely removing the 160-year old sashes from the casings. We first removed the interior sash stops, parting beads, and both sashes from the openings in that order. Those who have ever removed any building component that has been in place for a substantial amount of time, know that the word ‘dust’ takes on a whole new meaning.

Regardless of the dirtiness, each team moved their sashes carefully down to the basement workshop with a gracefulness that would have made any ballerina proud. Everyone’s biggest fear was breaking glass, as it was not every day that one has the privilege of handling twelve 160-year old, hand-blown panes. What was there to worry about?

Once down in the safety of the workshop, each team went through Bob’s step-by-step process for removing lead paint that minimized risk of poisoning ourselves (or anyone for that matter) while preserving the integrity of the wood. When all the paint and glazing was removed, we started repairing any rotted, broken, or cracked parts of the windows by applying various wood epoxies and rebuilding muntins as needed. We also weatherized each sash with rubber tubes to help reduce air penetration once reinstalled. And of course, that was all under the supervision of Bob.

After fixing and weatherizing our sashes, each team cleaned the individual panes using windshield wiper fluid, as Bob swears it is substantially more effective at removing dirt and grime than Windex. Remarkably, every team managed to reset the panes without
incident after a thorough cleaning and priming. But the re-glazing process was a whole other story—at least one pane was broken per team. People were either applying too much pressure while spreading the glazing compound, or catching the imperfections in the panes with the edge of the putting knife, causing the glass to crack.

When the window glazing dried, each team painted the restored sashes to match the color scheme in the slave quarters. Using the same ballerina-like poise, we carried our “new” sashes from the basement to the empty window casings. In reverse order of the removal, each team installed the sashes, parting beads, and interior sash stops. Unfortunately, all the original sash stops and parting beads were rotted beyond reuse, so Bob skillfully created new ones while the rest of us were glazing. He placed the fabricated components by each window opening to help expedite the reinstallation, and after three full workdays, the 160-year old sashes were back in the casings.

When mentioning my experience to my fellow students, I typically received two reactions: a puzzled look as to where Hannibal, Missouri is located and a statement something along the line of “I want to do hands-on workshops.” Usually providing clues such as Mark Twain, the Mississippi River, and northeast Missouri help paint the whereabouts of Hannibal, but as for the hands-on statements, I explain my perspective that preservation is not only about learning in the classroom, but also getting your hands dirty. We spend hours reading, writing, and discussing architecture, materials, documenting, and the legalese of preservation, but little time learning appropriate conservation and restoration techniques for buildings or artifacts. Learning historic trade skills by any means possible is a necessity for the future of the field. And as Bob mentioned to me very candidly, he is not getting any younger and once he retires, so does his skillset.

Workshops such as Bob’s provide opportunities to learn the skills necessary to save the physical past at a minimal expense. Spending time and money is no doubt a challenge for all graduate students, but the benefits far outweigh the cost. For example, the methods I learned for repairing and restoring 1859 sashes in Hannibal are not easily understood from photographs, diagrams, and lectures in a classroom. Physically using tools on the historic material is by far the most effective way to learn and practically apply relative textbook knowledge. Experiencing problems onsite and creating solutions unique to specific projects are priceless encounters for all students.

As the previous generation retires, it becomes vital for the next wave of preservationists to know how to properly intervene with a building or artifact in order to save it. Skills training workshops will continue to be a source of learning for students that could help them start their own firms, or at least possess the “how-to” knowledge that government agencies or other companies may value. Maybe years from now, when those students are middle-aged and have established a restoration career, they will be sitting in their basement workshops, sipping on French roast and greeting those eager to get their hands dirty. Only time will tell.
This past summer I was hired as a seasonal employee at Stranleigh Estate, located in Wildwood Preserve, which is part of the Metroparks of the Toledo Area. Robert Allen Stranahan, one of the co-founders of the Toledo-based Champion Spark Plug company, once owned the home and estate. Robert and his wife broke ground for their home in 1936, and completed construction in 1938. The home was made entirely of concrete and steel beams; the structure is over 32,000 square feet. There are 36 principle rooms in the house, 16 bedrooms, 17 bathrooms, and 16 fireplaces. The estate was over 700 acres with countless out buildings, one of which was a limo garage and indoor carwash.

My job description was as an interpreter for the Manor House (the more common name for the house on the estate) and other jobs as needed. Well as I quickly found out, those “other jobs as needed” became quite the array of opportunities. My main role still was interpreting the house and estate to guests of the park, which was an extremely rewarding experience. I was able to tie the family history into the context of local history over the past one hundred years. A lot of kids were not excited to be coming to a historic site, and some were even scared of the house, but I had the opportunity to change their entire perspective on the site. As one little boy named Carlisle told me, “You make learning fun!” His declaration was then followed by a running kick and punch in the air, as he dragged his dad into the next room. Many local community members did not realize the amazing piece of architecture and history that was right in their backyards. People began to return with friends and family members for additional tours, and it was an amazing feeling to be able to reach people on the local level. I also worked with docents and other volunteers to enhance the use of the estate and our tours. I quickly realized the important influence these volunteers and community members have on these historic sites. Honestly, without the hard work of the community, this estate would not be standing or be in the pristine condition it is in today.

I had the opportunity to take on a variety of other projects with the MetroParks when I told them of my interest in historic sites and outreach. I was able to work, at Pearson Park doing first person interpretation at the Johlin Cabin, and again for an anniversary event for the Battle of Fallen Timbers. I also was able to help with a variety of outreach programs teaching preschool and elementary school students about Native American life and children’s games of the 19th century. In my favorite program, I led the students in the building of a wigwam. This program was both rewarding and dangerous for all involved. Allowing elementary age students to swing eight-foot long poles around to build a wigwam can cause minor bruises and near concussions, but the memories are priceless. Additionally, I played a 19th century school marm at the Oak Grove School house, teaching students and
parents what it was like to be a student during that time period. Students got to experience not only lessons and chores, but punishments as well. Even if the parents were not behaving they would be punished. Punishments for parents on their cell phones generally resulted in them standing in front of the class with their arms stretched out straight with a pile of books in their hands until they understood how important paying attention in class really is.

This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, that allowed me to not only walk away with amazing hands-on practice in the field, but also a certification from the National Association of Interpretation as a Certified Interpretive Guide. Showing the Metroparks staff that I was eager for more involvement allowed me to gain knowledge and a better understanding for what I will be facing once I graduate. I cannot thank the staff and the community enough for the memories and knowledge they allowed me to gain this past summer. Make sure to visit these parks when you get the chance! I know for a fact that Wildwood is one of Dr. Ted’s favorites, since he helped to save the estate! Maybe Ohio isn’t so bad after all!

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Digital Ypsilanti

By: Melanie Parker
Reprint, Originally published in the Gleanings

A strong internet presence has become essential for historical institutions. Providing an informative, easy-to-use website helps information seekers discover what an institution has to offer, and aids potential guests in planning their visit. “Social media” sites, such as Facebook and Twitter, have also become increasingly more important, because they are free marketing tools and allow people to have constant connection with a site.

In recent years, many museums and archival institutions have taken the initiative to digitize their collections. Digitization preserves content for the future, and helps safeguard original materials from frequent handling by creating an accessible, digital replica. Moreover, this process makes collections available online to people all over the world, and gives the public access to these materials even if they are unable to visit the institution.

Here at the Ypsilanti Historical Society, we too are taking steps to digitize our collections and bring Ypsilanti history to life online. Links to online resources are available on our website homepage, www.yspsilanthistoricalorganization.org.

Under “Collections,” there are photographs of the Museum, giving you a taste of what you will see on a tour. To aid in planning your visit, our event schedule is complete with upcoming exhibits for the year.

Interested researchers should consult our “Master Database,” a listing of the material we have in the archives. This can be done at home to give you an idea of what is available prior to your visit. Are you from out of town? No problem: simply call us or send an email with what you are interested in, and we can assist your research from there. Though we are constantly updating our database and adding new items, it currently contains 23 different collections and over 20,000 entries.

Also in progress is the “Digital Photo Archives
Project,” a cooperative venture between the Ypsilanti Historical Society and the University of Michigan Digital Library System. Once complete, the collection will contain approximately 5,000 photographs dating from the 1850s to the present.

A benefit of Society membership is the receiving of the Gleanings, which can be a great resource when researching. Through a partnership with the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti District Libraries, we have been able to digitize past issues of the Gleanings. Both these and the Digital Photo Archives Project are available on our website under “Publications.”

On the left side of our homepage are links to “Online Programs.” The “Historical Highlights of Ypsilanti” section offers a look at citizens who were an integral part of the development of the city, as well as places of significance from 1900-1975. For more information on these locations, many of which are recognized as Michigan State Historic Sites, visit our “Markers and Statues” pages.

The Willow Run Bomber Plant has left an undeniable mark on Ypsilanti. At the time of its construction, it was the largest factory under one roof in the United States, and was known for completing one bomber every hour. The plant attracted so many workers that a community emerged around it. Information on the plant is available in the Archives, and a portion of what is available is online under the “Bomber City” page.

Continues on page 14...
Katherine Kirby
She is in her second year of EMU’s Historic Preservation Program with a Preservation Planning concentration. Katherine attended Hope College, receiving her degree in Art History, with a minor in French Studies. Originally from Traverse City, Michigan, she works at the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office in Lansing, splitting her time between the Michigan Modern Project and the Cultural Resource Management team.

Alexandra Kosik
In her second year in the Historic Preservation program at EMU, Alexandra is currently a general concentration with a strong interest in Materials Conservation. Although she is a native Michigander, she got her Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Vermont.

Stefanie Bozinoski
She is currently in her second year at Eastern Michigan’s Historic Preservation graduate program with a concentration in Preservation Planning. Stefanie received her bachelors of science in Architecture from Lawrence Technological University. Stefanie works at the State Historic Preservation Office splitting her time between tax credit for rehabilitation, Main Street Program and Cultural Resource Management team.

Ashley Johnson
A second year student in EMU’s Historic Preservation program, Ashley is currently working as a server the Detroit Golf Club. She received her Bachelor of Arts in History from Saginaw Valley State University. She has interned at the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History, as well as the Detroit Historical Society at their Collections and Resource Center at Historic Fort Wayne.

Cynthia Kochanek
Cynthia is in her third year of EMU’s Historic Preservation Program with a concentration in Marketing from Eastern Michigan University. She works at The Henry Ford and volunteers at the Wyandotte Museum.

Nancy E. Villa Bryk (Faculty Advisor)
Nancy E. Villa Bryk has been an Assistant Professor of Historic Preservation at Eastern Michigan University since August 2011. She has worked at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum and The Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan. Some of Ms. Bryk’s projects have involved the Motown Sound Exhibit, Motown Studio Installation, as well as having reinterpreted and furnished over a dozen buildings in Greenfield Village.
The Ypsilanti Historical Society is not the only group working to bring Ypsilanti to life online. The “Online Programs” section also offers links to other sites that focus on Ypsilanti history. Two of these links lead to projects completed by students in the Historic Preservation graduate program at Eastern Michigan University. “Gals with Gumption,” designed as an informative website and walking tour “reflects the accomplishments and struggles of women in the city of Ypsilanti.” The “African American History” link directs to a website focused on the historic South Adams Street neighborhood, circa 1900. You can stay connected with the neighborhood by “liking” them on Facebook; search “South Adams Street circa 1900.”

Independent blogs are kept by two Ypsilanti historians, both of whom have published books on Ypsilanti history. Laura Bien keeps the “Dusty Diary”, and James Mann writes the “Ypsihistor.” Both are volunteers in the Archives; please contact us for more information regarding these blogs and their content.

Many historic sites and organizations in Ypsilanti have websites and Facebook pages that you can “like” to stay updated with news and events, including the Downtown Association of Ypsilanti, Visit Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum, Michigan Firehouse Museum, and Yankee Air Museum.

We, too, are on Facebook! Please “like” us to stay updated with what is going on in the Society, see posts featuring collections from the Museum and Archives, and photographs uploaded weekly. For more information on this and our other online initiatives, please contact us by phone or email.

Museum: yhs.museum@gmail.com 734-482-4990
Archives: yhs.archives@gmail.com 734-217-8236
Professional Spotlight: Dan Bonenberger

Professor Dan Bonenberger joined EMU’s Historic Preservation faculty in 2008 and was recently granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. In light of this accomplishment, the Preservation Eastern board members thought it would be beneficial to learn a little more about Professor Bonenberger’s background through an interview.

Katherine: You have a bit of an accent - where are you from?
Dan: First off, I don’t have the accent: you do. Actually it is a mix of the Pittsburgh “yinzer” accent and the southern drawl of the borderland between the Upland South and the Lower Midwest. I was born and raised in Wheeling, West Virginia, which is on the Ohio River about 45 minutes SW of Pittsburgh. By the way, “yinz” is the vernacular second person plural (e.g. What yinz doin’ after school?).

Katherine: What is your educational background?
Dan: I have Bachelor and Master’s degrees in history, but spent my first three years as an undergrad in Electrical and Computing Engineering. A few years later, my work with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications in public history drew me into the field of Human Geography. I went back to school, completing my course work while working full-time, and defended my dissertation proposal a few months before accepting the position at Eastern in 2008.

Katherine: What work were you doing prior to coming here?
Dan: After about five years as associate director of a public history research institute at West Virginia University, I was elected president of the National Road Alliance, a 501(c)(3) that coordinates preservation, interpretation, and marketing efforts along America’s first interstate highway. The National Road was built in the 1810s-1830s, connecting Washington D.C. with the “new settlements” of the Ohio and Mississippi River system. While it was surely an engineering achievement, the road’s real significance is related to the politics behind the financing, surveying, route selection, and contracting.

Katherine: Tell us about your family.
Dan: Kim and I have been married for about eleven years, and we have two delightful kids: Joe (8) and Nina (6). Joe enjoys sports, Legos, drawing, and old things like cemeteries. He recently told me that he loves when someone starts a sentence with “Back then...” because you know something really interesting is about to follow. Nina loves dancing, gymnastics, and “all the colors in the world, especially purple” and recently did a great drawing of Amanda Wetzel’s chair, desk, and the bookcase housing Marshall McLennan’s books. Kim is a physical therapist, and she loves volleyball. She played at perennial Division III powerhouse Juniata College, coached high school for a few years, and still competes in the Washtenaw County adult leagues.

Katherine: What initially attracted you to historic preservation?
Dan: I have always been captivated by the second half of the 19th century, when my ancestors came to the U.S., and intensely curious about the evolution of our culture from that point to the present. It’s a nebulous question, but how did we get here?

Katherine: What courses do you teach at EMU? Which are your favorites?
Dan: In addition to Architectural Nomenclature, where I get to know most of the first-year students, I really enjoy Settlement Geography and Vernacular Architecture because they allow me to examine the intersection of HP and human geography. Historic Building Systems is great too, since it provides the opportunity for students to fine-tune their ability to understand and describe historic buildings (applying architectural nomenclature and other coursework). At the same time, we explore the relationship of HP and sustainability, a connection that will be critical to the growth of preservation in the coming decades. I absolutely love Documenting Historic Places.

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Not only is it how I got my start in HP back in 1992, but it also allows me to introduce the strengths and weaknesses of various conventions (i.e. HABS, NRHP, NHL, CLR, etc.), but also of alternative methods like motion picture documentation and digital heritage tools. How can we document and record the essence of cultural heritage including the intangible aspects and make certain that they are accurate and accessible?

**Katherine:** What do you do when you’re not teaching classes or grading HABS reports?

**Dan:** That’s a funny question! I try to spend as much time as possible with my family and enjoy trail running and watching sports. I am a big “homer,” rooting tirelessly for the Pittsburgh Pirates and Steelers and the West Virginia Mountaineers. Remarkably, my “second favorite” teams have been the Lions and Tigers since I was a kid.

**Katherine:** Do you have any advice to the new students about EMU, historic preservation or life, in general?

**Dan:** The biggest thing is to be present in the present. Become a master of time management. While you are learning the principles and methods of Historic Preservation, use your time here at Eastern to develop your skills in researching, understanding, writing, and speaking about historic places. Also, get to know your peers and learn how to collaborate.

**Katherine:** Thank you for your time, Dan!

**Dan:** You are quite welcome.

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**Gallery**

What has Preservation Eastern been up to??

*Top: The Historic Legacy of Architect Minou Yamasaki, America's Greatest Mid-Century Modernist, Presentation given by colleague Henry Guthard*

*Right: Front of the Alden Dow Home & Studio*

*Check out the last page for upcoming events!*
As one enters the gateway of the Upper Peninsula and travels the Straits of Mackinac to Mackinac Island, a small red and white lighthouse is seen on the horizon but remains at a distance and mysteriously inaccessible. This summer, my family and I were privileged to tour this gallant lighthouse, Round Island Lighthouse, during its annual one-day opening on July 13th, 2013.

Reaching Round Island was a journey in itself. To get to the island, we first had to take the ferry to Mackinac Island. Once on the island, we were taken back out into the Straits on a small private fishing boat and provided life jackets. However, the fishing boat couldn’t take us all the way to Round Island. The water being too shallow, we were escorted on captain’s orders from the fishing boat to a motorized dingy that would carry us the remaining distance to the island. As the waves sloshed against the boat, water soaked my lower half. The captain reassured us of the safe conditions and told us it was just a part of the experience while on the Great Lakes. Luckily, it was a hot summer day so we dried rather quickly. Once we got to Round Island’s shore, we were helped out of the dingy, took off our life jackets, and headed toward the lighthouse for the tour.

To give a little history, Round Island Lighthouse was constructed in 1895 by Frank Rounds, a carpenter of Detroit. Commissioned under the U.S Lighthouse Board, the lighthouse installed a fog signal and was lit for the first time on May 15th, 1896. The lighthouse was originally constructed of red brick, but was later painted red and white in 1924. Also in 1924, the beacon became automated, and in 1939 the lighthouse came under the care of the United States Coast Guard. Then in 1947 when an automated light was erected off the shore of Mackinac Island, Round Island Lighthouse was decommissioned and abandoned. The lighthouse was transferred into the hands of Hiawatha National Forest in 1958 after the United States Coast Guard contemplated demolition of the structure. After years of abandonment the lighthouse was deteriorating from the constant force of the Great Lakes, and the southwest corner of the foundation and lower wall were destroyed in a storm on October 20th, 1972. With government funding, donations, and help from groups such as Friends of Round Island, the southwest corner was repaired between 1974 and 1976. Along with the repair of the southwest corner, large
boulders were placed around the lighthouse to reduce wave erosion. Four years later in 1980, the exterior was repainted to make the structure look healthier on the outside for its appearance in the movie “Somewhere in Time”. In 1985, a new roof was installed along with another coat of paint and some windows were replaced.

Starting in 1995 the Boy Scout troop #323 of Freeland, Michigan joined the preservation effort of Round Island Lighthouse. Later in 2009 Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society was formed to further aid in the effort to preserve the lighthouse. Our tour was given by both members of the Boy Scout troop #323 and the Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society. After circling the exterior of the lighthouse, we proceeded inside to traverse the first, second, and third floors of the lighthouse. The first floor housed the machinery of the lighthouse before it had been scrapped during World War II, while the second and third floors were the living quarters of the keeper and his family. After touring the third floor, we then proceeded to the tower’s fourth floor, up a ladder into the lantern room, and out onto the catwalk. The view from the catwalk is a breathtaking angle not normally seen.

If you ever find yourself near the Straits of Mackinac, or have an interest in Michigan’s vast Maritime History, Round Island Lighthouse is a must-add to your bucket list of architecture. The members of Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society are always happy to answer any questions you may have, and are always open to help in preserving this piece of Michigan’s Maritime History. For more information and a virtual tour of Round Island Lighthouse, please visit http://roundislandlightmichigan.com.
Membership Counts, Join Preservation Eastern!

Preservation Eastern is the best way to keep up on historic preservation activities both within the department and throughout the area. We’re planning guest speakers, a lecture series, activities, events, and trips for the upcoming year. So join now and get involved!!! We are excited to have you join us; your membership and involvement will insure the future growth and success of the organization!!!

A benefit of membership is discounts on all Preservation Eastern events.

Membership Options (check one):

___ Semester Membership - $12
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___ One Year Membership - $20
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Preservation Eastern
Eastern Michigan University
Department of Geography and Geology
Historic Preservation Program
Strong Hall
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

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It is freely distributed electronically by contacting preservationeastern@gmail.com.

Support Preservation Eastern!

To make a gift to the Historic Preservation program at EMU, please go to www.emufoundation.org, or send your checks to:

EMU Foundation
1349 S. Huron St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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FOUNDATION

The EMU Foundation is an institutionally related 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that solicits and manages funds on behalf of Eastern Michigan University. Its primary mission is to provide additional support to students, programs, services and educational community of EMU. The EMU Foundation was created in 1989 by the EMU Regents, and is governed by an independent Board of Trustees that elects its own officers. All trustees serve as volunteers.

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WWW.PRESERVATIONEASTERN.COM
HTTP://PRESERVATIONEASTERN.BLOGSPOT.COM/

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Calendar

November:

***Networking Mixer Friday November 15, 2013 at 7:00 pm
It will be taking place at the Dexter Area Historical Society & Museum
Volunteer, internship, & job opportunities

***General Assembly Meeting, November 21, 2013 at 9:10 in room 239
Strong Hall

***Toys for Tots, Beginning after Thanksgiving, drop off toys in the GA’s
office (Ask any PE Board Member or GA for more information)

December:

***General Assembly Meeting, December 5, 2013 at 9:10 in Room 239
Strong Hall

***White Elephant Christmas Party December 6, 2013 at 7:00 pm
It will be held at the Corner Brewery in Ypsilanti
Ugly Christmas sweaters are highly suggested