Preservation Eastern, Fall 2002

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A NEW YEAR BEGINS...OUR 23RD!

2002 brings the Historic Preservation Program to the start of its 23rd year. And what a beginning it has proven to be, with the second largest enrollment of new students since I arrived here eleven years ago.

I would like to mention our new and formally admitted students and extend a special welcome to them: Barbara Chambers, Michelle Cyrus, Jim Edmunds, Dan Gallio, John Gelen, Kathy Holtz, Lottie Jones Hood, Leah Jablonski, Sharon Jensen, Tracey Jerome, Staci Johnson, Andrew Jones, Kathryn Keefer, Aletha Lippay, Tricia Nault, Jon Otzman, Rick Rockwell, Mike Sikina, Michelle Sponseller, Barry Stiefel, and Linda VanKoevering. The preservation prowess evident in this group, several of whom came to us currently involved in preservation projects, adds to the remarkable capacity already extant in our continuing student body.

Several things have changed administratively since our last newsletter. Dr. Michael Kasenow has stepped down as Department Head of the Geography & Geology Dept. in August, and was replaced by Dr. Barry Fish, former Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. A big thank you goes to Michael Kasenow for his support and advancement of our program. Our senior Secretary, Wanda Monks, moved up to the Dean's office, and filling her spot is Yulanda Woods. Dr. Robert Mancell, who taught our Urban Geography and Neighborhoods courses, retired last Spring. A new faculty member, Dr. Hugh Semple, came on this fall and will teach the Urban Geography course and some of Rocky Ward's courses when he retires. Our founder, Dr. Marshall McLennan, has returned this year to help Dr. Chris Mayda with the Settlement Geography course. Chris is managing a grant that provides her release time from courses. Marshall will also handle Chris' American Cultural Landscapes course next Winter (2003).

Of course Drs. Gabe Cherem, Lauren Sickels-Taves, Norm Tyler, Rocky Ward, and yours truly will be on hand this year, and we look forward to seeing you.

Ted Ligibel
ted.ligibel@emich.edu
Director, Historic Preservation Program

Welcome from Preservation Eastern...

Welcome to the Historic Preservation program, for those of you who are new, and welcome back to all of those who are returning students! This year will be an exciting one, with all of the events that Preservation Eastern is organizing. We encourage all students to attend our Speaker's Series events as well as our walking tours and our social events. What you learn inside the classroom is just as valuable as what you learn outside of it, so we gear our events to broaden your experience as a student here at EMU. These events will introduce you to the wealth of preservation knowledge in the area, and they will be a way to meet your fellow students and PE officers! So, have a great year and we look forward to seeing you in the months to come.

- Moira Boehm, Preservation Eastern Director
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 P.E. related events and activities.

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

Preservation Eastern is the student organization of the Historic Preservation program at Eastern Michigan University.

A WALKING TOUR OF EASTERN MICHIGAN

Did you know that Strong Hall, the home of the Historic Preservation Program, was designed as part of a nation-wide movement to support the growth of science and the protection of American interests? This plain, largely unadorned International Style building replaced Sherzer Hall as the physical science building in 1957. Built in the era of Sputnik and the Space Race, Strong Hall was part of a national trend towards science and the product of a population explosion on Eastern Michigan's campus. Although lack of funding prevented the planned planetarium wing from being built and the air conditioning was not initially installed, the building had been planned to be a perfect marriage between a physical science laboratory and classroom space. Built concurrently with Pine Grove Apartments, Strong Hall exemplifies the post-World War II expansion of Eastern Michigan, an expansion that lead to its university status and to the addition of graduate level programs in 1958.

A Walking Tour of Eastern Michigan, co-authored by Lisa Jacobs and Dan LeBlond, takes a systematic look at the 38 buildings on the central part of campus and places them within an historical context. What began as a Preservation Eastern Annual Project to produce a one-page foldout map of campus became a fifty-page booklet as the researchers began to focus the history of campus through the lens of its surviving architecture.

Dan LeBlond, who co-authored the Walking Tour as his final project, saw the growth of the campus not merely through various building phases but as an ever-changing landscape influenced by the guiding hands of successive university leaders. By the turn of the nineteenth century, the school had gone from a tiny school of wood structures to an expanding campus of imposing brick buildings. Between 1900-1950 at least 20 new buildings were constructed on campus, many in the dark red brick and pale stone that typifies the campus today. Simple boxes like Strong Hall contrast with earlier more ornate buildings like Sherzer, but both were built as temples to advanced higher education in architectural styles that spoke to their importance.

Today, interest is high regarding the history of campus as told through the Walking Tour. Because of its broad appeal, the walking tour is currently under review for possible publication by the university. It already has become a permanent part of the reference collection at Halle Library, where it is available to anyone interested in learning more about Eastern Michigan University.

- Lisa Jacobs, Preservation Eastern Assistant Director

Photo courtesy Eastern Michigan University Graduate School website: http://www.gradord.emich.edu/_homepage_cycle/index_rcr.html
MARSHALL McLENNAN RECEIVES THE PRESTIGIOUS FITCH AWARD

On October 11, 2002, our founder Marshall McLennan, was awarded the esteemed JAMES MARSTON FITCH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD from the National Council for Preservation Education (NCPE). The award recognizes the achievements of a leader in the field of preservation education, and only has been awarded to three other individuals. The award was given at a reception and dinner hosted by our program and department during the National Trust for Historic Preservation meeting in Cleveland. Congratulations Marshall!!!

Students, faculty, and friends found indulging in the battered catfish were Rick Rockwell, Michelle Trombley, Steve Jones, Norm & Ilene Tyler, Greg Sorarauf, Mike Quinn, Bonnie Stepenoff, Dave Merz, David Ames, Lisa Jacobs, Kristine Kidorff, Barbara Powers, Jim Turner, Betts Chisholm, Doreen Mobley, Sylvia and Dave Tillman, Rob Saarnio, Michael Tomlan, Tom Visser, Jim Glass, Donna Mallonen, Amanda Wettergren and Damon, Julie Courtney, Bill Kimball, Vince Michael, Marshall and Janet McLennan, and yours truly. This group included representatives from several major preservation architectural and construction firms, seven directors of university preservation programs, as well as people associated with city historic district commissions, state historic preservation offices, and national and statewide historic preservation organizations. It was a night to remember that will live long and loud in our memories. (My apologies to anyone I forgot.)

I am also pleased to announce that two of our students, Sylvia Tillman and Donna Mallonen, received “Emerging Leader” scholarships from the National Trust to attend the conference.

- Ted Ligibel
WHAZZUP OUT THERE?

Liz Airey (1999) has recently started her own business, Flying Sheep Yarns; a shop specializing in supplying hand work supplies, and dedicated to providing a safe place for creativity to flourish. The shop is located at 1554 S. Industrial in Ann Arbor; 734-623-1640.

Heather Aldridge (1996) was the unfortunate victim of a very serious case West Nile Virus this fall and spent several weeks in the hospital in Oregon. She is now home recovering in Grand Rapids, where a fund has been set up in her name to help with expenses: Heather Aldridge Fund, c/o Lake Michigan Credit Union, Account #836529, P.O. Box 2848, Grand Rapids, MI 49501; Attn: Member Services.

Audra Bellmore (2001) assumed the duties of Curator at the Michigan Maritime Museum in South Haven, Michigan in May of this year.

Cindy Danza (2001) finally has found her way to the New York Landmarks Commission, where she has been added to the staff of this famous HDC as Landscape Preservationist; Her contact information is: c.danza@worldnet.att.net

Rhonda Deege (1999) who is working on her Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin, has just been named the Program Coordinator and faculty for the new Building Preservation & Restoration program at Harford Community College in Bel Air, Maryland. Rhonda also serves as chair of the Vocational/Technical High School Task Force committee of the Preservation Trades Network; she can be contacted at: r.deege@hotmail.com.

Janet Emery (2002), has taken a position as Architectural Historian with KCI Technologies, a large Civil Engineering/Environmental Planning firm in Mechanicsburg, Pa.; judith1609@aol.com.

Jim Gabbert (1996) is Architectural Historian for the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office in Oklahoma City; jgabbert@ok-history.mus.ok.us.

Frank Quinn (2002) is the first Director of the newly formed Ohio Statewide preservation organization, Heritage Ohio in Columbus, Ohio; fsquinn1126@yahoo.com.

Robin Radzinski Astifan (1998) has just accepted a position as Planner for the Bi-State Regional Commission in Rock Island, Illinois; rastifan@bistateonline.org.

Wayne Waltrip (1999) has been appointed as the Manager of Education and Visitor Programs at the Automotive Hall of Fame in Dearborn; wayneahf@yahoo.com.

How I Spent my Summer Vacation....... Well I, as most of you, do not get summer vacations anymore. I did, however, attend both the Spring Fayette Course and Field School, and the Summer Course in Traverse City. Those of you who know me realize that I tell it how I see it. Both of these courses were GREAT.

Fayette, for me, was like a vacation. Oh, you will work throughout the semester, and at the field school in the U.P., but you will not have another opportunity in our preservation program to experience practical applications of construction methods, taught to you by the nationally recognized experts in their field. The atmosphere is relaxed, the site is beautiful, and the locals are right out of a David Lynch movie (just kidding). There are plenty of pictures circulating about, take a look, ask opinions and by all means make it a point to take the class in 2003. Everyone, and I mean everyone, will tell you that it was one of the best, if not THE best, experience in the HP Program. Some people said they saw a bear, I think it was a lawn chair!

Oh yea, then I went to hard camp....no wait.... I went to Traverse City. Another great experience. We did research, site survey, and developed a historical context statement (among other things) for Rex Dobson at his Ruby Ellen Farm on the Leelanau Peninsula northwest of Traverse City. You will never meet a better individual than Rex Dobson. Ask around the program, see who else was there, Traverse City in August, how could you come up with a better way to get three credits than that? Some people got lost, some lost their cameras, some were late, some know their alfalfa, and some thought they saw a bunch of wild turkeys.....it really was just some shrubs....city people!

These classes are your best opportunity to see people out of their natural habitat.....wait....I mean away from their spouses, kids, daily pressures. These classes are great places to get to know other people on a more personal level. I had a great time, have I ever steered you wrong?....OK, besides that time.

That's how I spent my summer vacation. .....
Bill Click
Public Relations Officer
Preservation Eastern