The Post and Lintel, Fall 2011

Preservation Eastern

Eastern Michigan University

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Welcome New and Returning Students!

By Deidre Fortino, Preservation Eastern Director

Preservation Eastern is off to a great start this semester! We have accomplished a lot in only a few months, and there is still so much to look forward to. PE continues to have general meetings every other Wednesday evening at 9:15pm in room 239, with socials to follow. We have had a few big field trips including a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to tour Ypsilanti’s iconic water tower, new and returning students made their way along the Washtenaw County Historic Barn Driving Tour, and an exclusive visit to the S.S. Columbia. We were also able to explore Concord, Michigan, and the Paddock Hubbard House as well as the Mann House.

Our Fall Networking Mixer was also a great success this year. We had five speakers, amazing food, and great conversation. We thank the Ypsilanti Historical Society for hosting us this year, as well as the speakers that came from all over to present to us, Donna Boglarsky, Bruce Lynn, Rebecca Binno Savage, Cheryl Valentine and of course Richard Anderson. Richard gave an amazing presentation, and we look forward to working with him and the S.S. Columbia in the future.

As this semester wraps up and finals are quickly approaching, we are left with one more activity: raising money for this year’s Adopt-A-Family. Last year Preservation Eastern was able to raise a few hundred dollars to sponsor a family during the holiday season. Starting December 6 through the end of the semester we will be talking donations, both monetary and of items, to help bring Christmas to a family of three Ypsilanti residents. For more information on where to send donations or how you can help, please email dfortino@emich.edu.

Historic Preservation Students Rescue Books

From Library of Michigan

By Marcus Schwimmer

Growing up as a child I idolized the pulp action hero Indiana Jones. I was so obsessed with him that my parents had to re-buy our VHS copy of The Last Crusade because I watched it so many times. One of my favorite moments is when a young Indiana looks at an artifact smuggler and promptly tells him that his newly acquired relic “Should be in a museum!” So as a group of us headed to the Library of Michigan I felt excited, like we were going to collect artifacts (some of the books there were of such an age that they could probably be considered such) and bring them to a their new home at the Historic Preservation Archives at Eastern Michigan University.

To be sure, the over 1,500 books that we collected are heading to a more appropriate home than most, but instead of feeling like the hero of the story my feelings at the Library of Michigan were more that of the helpless bystander. Seeing shelves upon shelves of books, paid credit: Shelly Neitzel
Dr. Ted’s Corner

I hope the term has been good for you so far. Amazingly, here we are and it’s already mid-November and registration for Winter term is well underway. This also means the end of the Fall term and finals is quickly approaching...are you ready???

It has been a busy semester so far with a variety of class site visits, presentations, conferences, and PE events, like the very successful Networking Mixer on Nov. 11. And of course the most exciting news... bringing on Nancy Bryk as permanent faculty!!

I attended the National Trust conference and the annual meeting of the National Council for Preservation Education (NCPE) in Buffalo in late October where I saw many alumni and students from our HP program, including Alumni Marla Overhiser Collum, Nathan Nietering, Jim Gabbert, Courtney Miller, Jessica Williams, Mollie Douglas Olinyk, Diane Jones, Kristen Young, and Bob Young who by the way is the Director of the graduate Historic Preservation Programs at the University of Utah and the new treasurer of NCPE. Students seen were Dan Schneider, Katie Remensnyder, Kelly Johnston, and Brenna Moloney.

The most exciting news from the NT conference is that it may be a record that so many of our folks presented: Mollie Olinyk, Jessica Williams, and Dan Schneider hosted the entire session about the Michigan SHPO weatherization project, while Brenna Moloney was a one-woman show for the session about right-sizing in Michigan and Saginaw specifically. WELL DONE YOU GUYS...YOU MAKE US PROUD!!!

DAADS SCHOLARSHIP

Each year for the past eleven, the Detroit Area Art Deco Society (DAADS) has honored one of our students with a $1000 award for the best paper on Modern era structures, materials, or approaches. The DAADS is pleased to announce that this year's recipient is Hannah Loncharich. Hannah's paper, The Knapp's Building: A New Vision of the Future, was described by DAADS as "...an excellent paper...she really did a great job writing about this important building in Lansing. " Congratulations Hannah!!

HISTORIC WEDDINGS

On All Hallows Eve (Oct. 30), in an elegant ceremony held at the historic Ladies Literary Club in Ypsilanti, HP Program Graduate Assistant Kelly Johnston, professed vows of marriage with Mike Lieberman. The photo of the actual nuptial moment reflects the beauty of the setting and the moment. Congratulations Kelly and Mike!!

And speaking of marriage, former program GA Meghan Schafbuch and Ben Jellema officially tied the knot in November. Congratulations to you both too!!

THE BABY BOOM CONTINUES

Tracy Knoeller McKinney gave birth to baby daughter Penelope Grace McKinney on September 22, 2011. She and husband Jeremy are settling in with their new preservationist in Milan.

Alumna Kelly Kowatch, with the assistance of husband Mike, brought Augustin Michael Kowatch, into this world on November 10th, 2011.

Congratulations to all!!

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Left: Tracy Knoeller McKinney with baby Penelope.
Right: GA Kelly Johnston and Mike Lieberman tie the knot on All Hallows Eve.
Students Rescue Books, from page 1

for by private donations and taxpayer dollars, being sold off and boxed up by the highest bidder seemed inherently wrong. Libraries are a place that should be expanding their collections not selling them off to private collectors and resale stores.

Often those of us immersed in the world of Historic Preservation discusses what the effect of removing an artifact from its historic location has on the artifact itself. Buildings that are moved from their original site are often seen as less valuable than when they rest on the same ground they were built on. Historic farm equipment seems more important when it is on this historic farm in which it has been used for over a hundred years. And I would argue that books that were purchased with the intent of being assessable to the public through a State library have an intrinsic value when they are being used by the public, for the public good.

All this being said, I am happy that we were able to save the books we did and was great encouraged by the enthusiasm of the Eastern Michigan University librarians at receiving them. I know that they will be taken after and that now EMU students have a wide variety of architecture books at their fingertips. I simply wish that we could have saved more for the public use.

The S.S. Columbia Project: Preservation Inspiration

By Lindsey Wooten

I am in love with a lady. I found her on the internet, and quickly realized we had already met when I was a youngster. Her name is S. S. Columbia and she gave my parents and I rides to an amusement park called Boblo Island! I’m sure many of you have met her as well, but for most of us it has been approximately twenty years since our last encounter. Since Boblo Island’s demise in the 1990s, this 1902 passenger steamer has been docked in the Detroit River. A lonely lady indeed amongst the industrial landscape of her surroundings, until a man from New York City discovered her.

Richard Anderson’s not for profit group purchased the Columbia in 2006 and saved her from being destroyed and it’s a good thing they did! The Columbia is a National Historic Landmark and is the oldest surviving passenger steam vessel in the United States. It is also one of the best surviving works by one of America’s greatest naval architects, Frank Kirby. She was built in Wyandotte Michigan and has spent 109 years on the Detroit River. In addition, the Columbia was involved in a Supreme Court case in 1945 when an African American woman named Sarah Elizabeth Ray was denied passage aboard the boat because of her race; a decade before the Rosa Parks phenomenon!

At this point in her life the hull and most of the steel components have held up very well, but a lot of the wood components have suffered immensely. Since 2006 The SS Columbia Project has worked to clear out massive amounts of garbage from the vessel. Currently the main effort in the project is stabilization and a lot of work lies ahead. When the Columbia is finally restored and operating again, she will be moved to a new home in the Hudson River.

Saving Snowmen: The Future of Preservation?

By Adam Cripps

This winter, I am going to be turned into a snowman. An import from Florida, this will be my first snowy season and I find myself desirous of celebrating the occasion by getting a picture of yours truly as a legitimate snow man; complete with carrot nose and button eyes. In discussing this endeavor with fellow preservationists from the program, addressing the technical issues of how to build a snowman around a core that burns at 98.6 degrees, I recognized that here we were altering the concept of the traditional snowman pushing the craft of its construction into the 21st century. We were designing a snowman that met new cultural standards, capable due to new technologies, and while it paid brief homage to the snowman tradition it would still be considered “grotesque” by James Fitch and many other pioneers of the historic preservation movement.

While anthropologists believe that snowmen may be among the earliest forms of art, the earliest documentation of snowmen comes from a medieval Book of Hours at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek which dates to circa 1380. This image was discovered by
By Kimmie Dobos

Today, we are going to examine Michigan’s dirtiest, most feared and hated four-letter word. OHIO. Yes, the Nation’s 17th state, the Buckeye State, the state shaped like a heart. The state that took Toledo and gave you the Upper Peninsula, the state that claims only one (dirty) Great Lake, the state that allows guns in bars, and the state that some claim to have ‘a lack of any scenery’. While Ohio is not perfect (nor is any other state for that matter), it surprisingly does have some amazing places to go to and sights to see. For all of the naysayers that will exclaim, ‘This cannot be true!’ let me assure you, it can be, and it is. Let us go through some of the finer stops in Ohio, in no particular order of awesomeness, and examine what Ohio is really about.

1. **The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (Cleveland)**
   A museum encompassing the grassroots, history, and current trends in Rock and Roll that features 6 floors of real artifacts and loads of interviews, stories, and music to carry you throughout. In addition, it is an architectural gem and sits on Lake Erie right next to the Great Lakes Science Center and TWO ship museums (Steamship William G. Mather and the USS Cod Submarine Memorial) which provides for a fun day of historical tourism on the lake. Just for the music nerd or (seafaring; edit, LAKE) adventurer in all of us.

2. **German Village (Columbus)**
   A small neighborhood on the south side of Columbus that includes Italianate buildings and local businesses, it is a great way to spend a lazy Sunday. And of course, there is the Book Loft. A 32-room bookstore with hundreds of thousands of books on any topic imaginable at discount prices, it is not hard to believe that it is easy to spend hours upon hours here. If you happen to need to immediately read one of the 20 books you just bought, they have a cute little garden with plenty of seating - also perfect for people watching.

3. **The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (Cincinnati)**
   Dedicated to education of aspects of the underground railroad and civil rights, this institution promotes awareness and understanding in a visually stimulating environment—even by addressing slavery today! They also provide free genealogy

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By Sarah Marsom

Frank Lloyd Wright is arguably America’s most well known architect. Wright is recognized for his architecture school Taliesien, the Guggenheim Museum, Falling Water, and many other unique buildings and styles. His architecture style evolved throughout his career, and in 1936, Wright designed and built the first Usonian house. With the advent of the Great Depression, architects across the nation were struggling to find paying jobs. Using the same organic principles Wright used in other designs, Usonian houses were intended to be more accessible than his previous works. Usonian houses are defined by the following key elements: bringing the environment indoors, using new building materials/techniques, and minimalism to maximize space.

Usonian houses feature large windows; often entire walls will be windows. Wright sought to bring natural light indoors in order to make the interior space feel larger. In addition to large window panels, Usonian homes often featured mitered glass corners. A mitered corner allows for an unobstructed view of the exterior, because there is no framing to the windows; the windows are instead held together by a gel. Wright’s use of cantilevers in Usonian homes extends the structure into nature.

Innovative building techniques were combined with new building materials. Concrete blocks were often used in lieu of bricks, and plywood replaced wood. Using these new building materials, Wright intended to cut building costs. Wright detested air conditioning and refused to allow it inside his buildings. He created more environmentally friendly means of monitoring temperature. The concrete floors and thick walls helped to regulate temperature, by cooling in warmer climates and insulating in cooler weather.

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**Debunking Myths**

By Kimmie Dobos

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**Geography Trivia: Did You Know?**

By May Lyn Wake

Do you know that Fred B. Kniffen, the father of cultural geography, was born in Britton, Lenawee County, Michigan? His paternal grandfather, Isaac Kniffen, was a pioneer to Lenawee County. Kniffin Road is named for his family.

The family farmstead, currently owned by Paul Kniffen, a distant cousin, is located on Route 50 between Dundee and Tecumseh, MI. The farmhouse has been altered over the years, but you can still make out the original house. Paul can usually be found at the Saline farmer’s market on Saturdays.

Fred Kniffen did not remain in Michigan, but he came back to study at the University of Michigan and graduated in 1922. By the 1930 census his parents had returned and settled in Athens, MI.

Some Saturday, take a wander out and about to Britton or Athens. Observe the architecture and know that the houses and landscapes had a lasting effect on Fred B. Kniffen and the world of historic preservation.

**An Investment in the Future: The Bund Challenge**

By Ceci Riecker

Late last spring, Sally Bund, a 1998 alumna of the program, and her husband, Ian, issued an interesting challenge to the Historic Preservation program. They asked us to think about the HP program of the future, one that encompassed all of our hopes and dreams. They asked us to present them with a proposal that incorporated new and expanded curricula, new technology, and new spaces within the University. Additionally, we were to estimate our funding needs to support these new ideas. After many hours of planning, researching, writing and figuring, Dr. Ted, Profs. Bonenberger and Bryk and I wrote a focused, detailed proposal to carry the program forward well into the future.

This document lays out a comprehensive plan for the program in three phases over 8 years, from 2012 - 2020. It makes detailed recommendations about academic, administrative and applied learning support, as well as envisions increased local and national civic engagement. We carefully calculated the total cost of these ideas, which added up to almost $1 million (Phase 1 = $460,000; Phase 2 = $250,000; and Phase 3 = $265,000).

We addressed the necessities like student scholarships, visiting professionals’ stipends, graduate assistantships, and conference support. We addressed the inevitabilities of a growing program, such as dedicated administrative help, facilities expansion, and increased programmatic selling eggs and frozen chickens.

**HP Student Fundraising Initiative**

By Ceci Riecker

As a student in the Historic Preservation program, I feel it’s my duty to support this program and its mission to become the premier HP program in the nation. I hope you will join me in making a contribution, whatever the size, to this important initiative. There are over 100 students in the program – imagine what we could do if we all donate a few dollars!

Simple ways to give:

- Donate your pop and beer can money for a month.
- Forego your designer coffee and pizza splurges for a month and donate the money instead.
- Ask friends and family to make a donation to the program in your name for your birthday, to commemorate a holiday, or just because!
- Sell some of your gently used clothing at a consignment shop and donate the proceeds to the program.
- Empty your change jar, hit the Coinstar machine, and support the program with it!

These are all easy ways to create your giving fund. Student support sends a powerful message; let’s be sure to be heard loud and clear!

Hand your cash or checks to Dr. Ted, Prof. Bonenberger or Prof. Bryk, and they’ll get your donation to me; or make your donation on line at [www.emufoundation.org](http://www.emufoundation.org); or mail your check to the EMU Foundation, 1349 S. Huron St., Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Be sure to include a short note with your donation with your name, address and telephone number and indicate “Historic Preservation – Bund Challenge” in your note.

THANK YOU FOR SPREADING THE WORD!
Frank Lloyd Wright, from page 4

Below the floors in Usonian homes, commonly Wright used radiant heating and cooling. By installing copper pipes below the floor, warm or cool water would circulate and respectively warm or cool the home.

By avoiding installing extraneous units, Wright worked to use minimalism to maximize the space in a home. Usonian homes featured built ins which were common in Wright’s designs throughout his career. These homes featured built in bookshelves, tables, drawers, and so forth. By eliminating the need for additional furniture, the space in a home is truly maximized. Open floor plans also maximize space. Combining rooms such as the dining room and living room open up the space and allow freer movement.

Wright’s Usonian houses were truly revolutionary; while they did not become as popular as he hoped, the architectural impact they made is still evident. Suburban homes today feature open floor plans for maximizing space. While these Usonian homes have many similarities through their design elements, they were also each designed specifically for the client. Wright’s penchant for details allowed the homes to truly be personal. One of the personal touches Wright left on Usonian homes were the wood screens that filtered light in carefully chosen windows throughout the home. Wright’s attempt at affordable housing can be seen across the country and still appreciated today.

Living the Dream at Old Sturbridge Village

By May Lyn Wake

What a summer I had at Old Sturbridge Village. If you are interested in interpretation I would strongly urge you to apply next spring for an internship there. They do have a few paid internships and housing is available for a nominal fee. It is a beautiful setting and the loudest sound I heard all day was the gentle ding of a hammer from the tinsmith’s shop. Experiencing the “Ah, ha” moments that Tilden talks about is priceless.

Generally, the jobs are gender specific. Women work in the gardens, the school house, the farmhouse, or the print shop and dye wool. Men work in the fields, the shoe shop, the tin shop, the blacksmith shop, the mills or the pottery. Other possible internship opportunities include collections, special event planning, museum education, and research for upcoming exhibits.

The village is about an hour west of Boston, and about an hour and a half from Pilmoth Plantation and about forty-five minutes from Deerfield Village. During your days off, if you are not sleeping, you can explore the architecture of New England; experience a Baffie Entry house, a Georgian, a New England Large or a Triple Decker mill worker’s house, just to name a few.

I must warn you. The village is addictive and even on your day off you will find yourself wandering around there. I thoroughly loved every day I was there, and enjoyed the opportunity to apply Tilden’s principles of interpretation.

In period costume at Old Sturbridge Village.

credit: author
Debunking Myths, from page 4

Research and assistance at their on-site Family Center and Library. Harriet Beecher Stowe’s house is in Cinci, too; make a railroad tour out of it!

4. Cleveland Cultural Gardens (Cleveland)
An entire beautiful landscape on the east side of the city, this incorporates 26 gardens representing different nationalities that have settled in Cleveland over time to embody “20th century in America”. Many gardens feature statues, fountains, plaques with decrees and history, and in the spring, beautiful flowers. Of course, each country raises their flag proudly - go there to salute yours! A drive through the gardens will take you directly to the arts district and University Circle, too, for cheap or free museums to entertain yourself with. Also noted, the Polka Hall of Fame and Museum is close to this too. It does exist.

5. Cedar Point (Sandusky)
“America’s Roller Coast,” one of the top amusement parks in the country. This huge park features great rides, shows, and events (HalloWeekends is a blend of rides and scary fun). Come in the spring or fall for discounted prices and short lines! Plus, it’s only 2 hours from Eastern’s campus. If you’re not screaming, you’re not having fun.

6. Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Greater Akron/Cleveland)
Ledges, valleys, waterfalls, caves, a vast amount of hike and bike trails, scenic railroads, and the historic (remnants) of the Erie Canal. All parks in the area are free and most are open year round for cheap seasonal programs dealing with nature, art, music, history, culture, and athletics (and even beer/wine tastings). The scenery is gorgeous and the programs are great - there is always something to do in the CVNP. Even if this means creeping in strangers’ back yards for pictures of their gorgeous trees (guilty).

7. The Short North (High St.) (Columbus)
If you’re into art, small businesses, and great local restaurants, High Street in Columbus is the place to be. Located right between downtown and Ohio State campus, the Short North provides plenty of entertainment and quirky fun year round. Highlights include: (1) the monthly gallery hop. The first Saturday of the month, hop the local galleries for art, food, and fellowship. (2) The Community Arts Festival (Comfest) held the last weekend in June; music, art, love, beer. And topless women. It’s legal there. (3) The Zombie Bar Crawl, currently in its third successful year. Dress up like a zombie and go to the bar with crazies just like you!

8. Great Lakes Brewery (Cleveland)
The pride of Northeast Ohio beers, this place offers you a chance to go on a FREE tour of the brewery and sample some of their wares in a historic building on the west side of the city. Continue on next door to their restaurant and try even more samples or full-size drafts of their tasty beers. If you rave about local breweries in Michigan, you will most likely love this place. Also, it is right by the West Side Market - another historic Cleveland hot spot.

9. Fort Meigs (Perrysburg/Toledo)
A reconstructed fort from the War of 1812, just an hour away from Eastern’s campus. With a great history and some pretty awesome events (re-enactments, trade classes, and social events) this fort gives us the opportunity to experience history in an encompassing (literally, you’re in a surrounded fort) manner.

10. Put-in-Bay (Lake Erie)
Adventures on an island that is only two and a half hours away? Yeah, it’s Put-in-Bay. Sure, some of the night-time antics may be a little like MTV’s Spring Break (swimming pools with bars for starters), but certain areas of the island are more family-friendly with a few small museums, wineries, and fun where aquatics meet machine (i.e. boats, water skis, parasailing, etc). This is a pretty good place for a fun weekend that you’ll (never) remember.

As we can see, Ohio isn’t all that bad. There are plenty of places for people of all ages and interest levels to go and experience culture and/or history throughout the state. If you really think about it, Michigan and Ohio have many ‘like’ places that encompass nature (both have National Parks), arts (huge art museums), music (music museums), breweries and wineries, and great places of cultural heritage. Stop by one of these places the next time you’re through the state, and I guarantee you could end up pleasantly surprised.
**The Bund Challenge, from page 5**

outreach. Finally, we allowed ourselves to fully embrace new ideas, including a fully-supported historic marker program and the creation of a revised database of HABS, offering students practical experience while enlarging and enhancing these historical resources for educational purposes.

We presented this exciting document to the Bunds in July 2011, which led to the creation of the Bund Challenge. The Bunds were excited about the plan we presented, and pledged a portion of the funding for Phase I over three years to kick-off the fund raising. They also challenged us to raise $250,000 in support by December 30, 2011. Further, they pledged their help in our fund raising efforts by offering to reach out to other historic-minded individuals in the community and across the country.

This leadership gift, coupled with their willingness to reach out to other like-minded individuals, provides us with the impetus we need to begin in earnest our journey to becoming the premier graduate historic preservation program in the country.

This visioning exercise and ultimately the final proposal will help us respond to the rapid pace of change and new directions of historic preservation in the 21st Century. It will help us to prepare students as well-rounded preservation and heritage interpretation professionals in a new era of digital technologies. I am happy to share the full document with you upon request; please contact me for more information at ceci.riecker@emich.edu.

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**Discovering Buffalo**

By Katie Remensnyder

This year, the annual National Preservation Conference was held in Buffalo, New York. From October 19th to 22nd, more than 2500 preservationists converged in the city to attend educational sessions and visit many of Buffalo’s historic buildings. I was able to attend and immensely enjoyed the conference. For me, one of the biggest highlights of the conference was the city of Buffalo itself and its wealth of significant architecture.

Buffalo was first settled in the late 1700s, and boomed after the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825. Strategically located at the western end of the Erie Canal on Lake Erie, shipping of grain and other goods resulted in a massive port and surging economy. By 1832, the population had quadrupled to approximately 10,000 people, and it continued to grow into the twentieth century. One aspect that allowed Buffalo to grow so quickly was its radial street plan, designed in 1804 by Joseph Ellicott. In 1868, Frederick Law Olmsted was hired to design a city park system. His plan used parkways to intersect the radial streets and connect parks and public spaces throughout the city. Today, the designs of Ellicott and Olmsted remain and make the city highly walkable. The city also attracted architects such as Dankmar Adler, Louis Sullivan, Henry Hobson Richardson, Daniel Burnham, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Eero and Eliel Saarinen.

However, like many other Rust Belt cities, Buffalo has seen more than its fair share of problems in the past few decades. A main reason for the city’s decline was the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1957, which diverted shipping traffic away from Buffalo. This led to a massive reduction in population, deindustrialization, crumbling infrastructure, and a declining economy. Many of the city’s downtown buildings were abandoned. However, in the past few years, there has been a surge of revitalization and preservation that has helped the city bounce back. Buildings ranging from churches to warehouses that were abandoned or neglected for years have become...
When I went to field school in May, I considered myself fortunate to have been on the recordation and documentation team with Professor Dan Bonenberger and my team mates: Gini Davis, Patrick Hudson and Marcus Schwimmer. Our focus was to record several outbuildings at the farmstead, which sounds simple enough, but it required a lot of work and attention to detail.

We started out creating field drawings which could be used as a tool to create measured drawings at a later date. The field drawings would also allow us to create a labeling system for each floor level, room and wall of a structure for the purpose of aiding the curatorial and interpretation team.

We began our drawing careers with the floor plans of the upper barn. The curatorial team planned to document the artifacts in the upper barn, and in order to record the specific location an artifact was found the building, the sections need to be labeled. We only labeled the rooms and spaces; we did not have the luxury of endless time to document each wall of each space.

When recording a 150-year-old barn, it is important to pay attention to the stability of the structure. In this case, the barn is stable and is currently being used to store farming equipment, but getting to the second level was a bit tricky. There are a stairway and a built-in ladder that both lead to the upper level, but both are unusable. Eventually, we found an old wooden ladder and propped it up against the third level, climbing up it and over a railing to reach the second level. Mission accomplished!

After completing the upper barn, we started drawing elevations sketches of the outbuildings. One of the challenges we faced was being detailed without being too detailed. It is very easy to get too caught up in the minor details and forget that in the end we want a clear, precise drawing that will still be clear and precise after we have added building measurements.

Unfortunately, we did not get all of the buildings measured, but we were able to do the migrant worker house, the chicken coop, the granary, the upper milk house ruins, the upper barn and the migrant worker wash house. Rain caused a short delay, but we really just ran out of time. Guess we will all have to go back next year!

The documentation and recordation team points to their datum line on the upper barn.

S.S. Columbia, from page 3

Valley. Some Detroiterseem to be angered by this but the fact of the matter is: if it hadn’t been purchased, the Columbia would have been destroyed. Before she was purchased her life consisted of collecting soot from nearby industry and suffering the effects of our varied and sometimes extreme Michigan climate. Richard Anderson understands the importance of the Columbia’s origins and colorful past, and is passionate and enthusiastic about telling her story even though she won’t be in Michigan anymore. His love for her is inspiring, and the efforts he has made and will make in the future are tireless. This is the beginning of the SS Columbia’s second wind, and it is long overdue.

My volunteer efforts with the project include photo documentation of the current state of the vessel. During this project I fell in love with the Columbia and wanted to share her story with the rest of our students. Richard Anderson was kind enough to come to our Fall Networking Mixer and to give us an exclusive tour. I have talked a lot about the Columbia but I could see that Anderson’s presentation created much enthusiasm amongst attendees. The students who went on the tour seemed to really enjoy it, and I enjoyed hearing everyone’s comments about how “awesome” she was while walking around. The Preservation Eastern board is hoping to arrange a group volunteering effort aboard the Columbia this coming spring, and I hope those who got to meet her can help maintain enthusiasm about the project so that we can make a difference.

For more information visit ssocolumbia.org and find out how you can be involved, and for those of you searching for a final project, consider the Columbia!
Discovering Buffalo, from page 8

restaurants, theatres, galleries, microbreweries, nightclubs, stores, and housing.

One of these success stories is that of Shea’s Performing Arts Center, where the keynote speech by author James Howard Kunstler was held. Shea’s, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, was opened in 1926. Designed by Rapp and Rapp of Chicago, the theatre has a lavish interior designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany and seats more than 3,000 people. After falling into disrepair in the 1970s, Shea’s was acquired by The Friends of the Buffalo Theatre. Since then, restorative work has continued in both the interior and exterior, including restoration of the ticket booth and the Theatre Pipe Organ, which is the largest Wurlitzer organ still in its original place in the United States. In the upcoming years, an additional $10 million restoration will help return the theatre to its original 1926 grandeur.

Currently underway is a project to restore and adaptively reuse the Richardson Olmsted Complex. Formerly known as the Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane, the building was designed by Henry Hobson Richardson in 1870, and the grounds were designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. Now a National Historic Landmark, it marked Richardson’s first use of what later became known as the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Plans call for a mix of private and public spaces, including a visitor’s center and boutique hotel.

Although there are many buildings that have been restored, there are many more that are threatened. A number of these are grain elevators and industrial buildings that crowd the Lake Erie shoreline. Sitting on prime real estate, demolition seems to be favored over adaptive reuse, with only the city’s preservation board standing between the wrecking ball and the buildings. Recently, several of the still-surviving buildings were documented for the Historic American Engineering Record.

Another building that is in need of restoration is the Buffalo Central Terminal. Built in 1929, the terminal handled 200 trains and 3200 passengers per day. Easily recognizable by its fifteen-story tower, the terminal has been an important Buffalo landmark since its construction. The building functioned as the main train station until 1979, when it was abandoned. After nearly two decades of neglect, the Central Terminal Restoration Corporation acquired the terminal in 1997. Since then, the organization has been slowly restoring the building, with much of the work done by volunteers. However, there is still a great deal of work that needs to be done and some areas of the building are still in danger of collapsing.

What makes Buffalo so enjoyable is that it truly has a sense of place. Preservation has played a key role in revitalizing not only the downtown but also neighborhoods such as Allentown and Elmwood, which are now lively and closely-knit. Although there are numerous problems that need to be overcome, the preservation of the city’s unique architecture and sense of place are helping to create a more positive image for the city. Despite the bad reputation the city has garnered in the past few decades, its rich history and architecture serve to inspire, and preservation activities continue to increase.

Saving Snowmen, from page 3

Bob Eckstein while researching his book The History of the Snowman. Early snowmen tended to be more artistic snow sculptures, such as the one done by the artist Michelangelo during the winter of 1494 for Piero de Medici. However, a century later the snowman had become a political effigy as can be seen in Shakespeare’s reference “O that I were a mockery king of snow,” in act 4 scene 1 of Richard II. By the Eighteenth-century the snowman had entered folk culture as a symbol of winter and the transitory nature of the seasons, and generally appeared pretty grim. It would not be until the mid 19th-century when the Victorians, who had begun using snowmen to encourage creativity in kids, would slowly develop the jovial child-friendly frosty we have come to love. However, even frosty evolved over time, and Eckstein traces his develop further from his days as an early 20th century advertising icon to a mid-century movie star who fell into some “white trash” years, but then began a renewed expansion here in the early post-millennium.

The functional cultural role of the snowman was not the only thing to change over the years, but its form did as well. As a type of monumental architecture paying homage to the wintery season, a study of the construction of snowmen is absolutely critical for understanding underlying cultural developments throughout time and space. For example, the earliest snowmen were constructed generally of two balls and all details (hats, arms, etc.) were sculpted as one piece except for the addition of a single long stick. It is not until the 19th century that the standard “trois boules de neige” model comes into existence with its additional hats, coats, arms of sticks, etc. Variations in the form of snowman architecture also differ geographically, where even today the Japanese still construct snowmen of the two-ball model while in Europe and America our wintery idols are constructed of three.

As we can see, the architecture of snowmen is a physical manifestation of broader cultural trends and also represents a unique form of seasonal monumental architecture. Produced shortly after the first snows descend, a segment of the population...
Saving Snowmen, from previous page

manufactures these snowmen to visually awe the rest of their community as well as convey the traditional values and attitudes of the group towards the coming season. And yet, every spring we allow these harbingers of heritage to just melt away. The warming temperatures bring with them the genocide of a unique phenomenon which has shaped and molded the experience of not only our ancestors but also ourselves. We should be ashamed that we allow this to occur while focusing on maintaining architecture that is at less risk of extinction (pff...Mid-Century Modern...).

So what can be done to preserve these snowmen not only for our own edification but also that of future generations? A gentleman in Germany has begun a snowmen museum, focusing mostly on images and memorabilia. That is like having a museum of architectural photographs while the houses are demolished for more strip malls (after all, they have to sell Christmas ornaments somewhere). As global warming continues to alter our environment, the need for preserving snowmen worldwide will continue to become a critical issue. While we do not currently have any answers how best to undertake saving these valuable cultural icons, we humbly submit that our faculty and students in the Historic Preservation program at EMU might at least give the issue the due thought and consideration which it deserves. If new approaches and methods can be developed in the field of snowmen preservation, perhaps through a new “Center for Snowman Salvation” or professional degree concentration, we might even find ourselves at the forefront of the next big wave of preservation activity.

These issues will be what I ponder as my contemporary culture manifests itself this winter by turning me into a snowman.

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**Calendar**

**November**

22nd: Historic Architecture of Ypsilanti Workshop, 6:00 p.m. Ypsilanti City Hall

30th: Swag Order Forms Due!

Preservation Eastern General Meeting, 9:15 p.m., Strong 239*

**December**

6th: Adopt-A-Family Donation Drive begins*

13th: Researching Your Historic Home Workshop, 6:00 p.m., Ypsilanti City Hall

13th—19th: Week of Final Exams

20th: Holiday Party and Chili Cook-Off, 6:30 p.m., Ladies Literary Club, Ypsilanti*

**January**

9th: Winter 2012 Semester Begins

11th: Paper Abstracts for “Anything but Architecture” Contest due*

**May**

2nd-3rd: Trip to Mackinac Island*

*PE Event

Be sure to check preservationeastern.com, our Facebook group and your email inbox for updates about times, locations, carpooling, and additional field trip info!
**Preservation Eastern Mission Statement:**
To enrich the historic preservation education of the students of Eastern Michigan University's Historic Preservation Program, as well as the general public, by providing opportunities for advocacy, networking, and growth while encouraging and promoting the preservation of Michigan's historic and cultural resources.

Preservation Eastern is an active student organization affiliated with Eastern Michigan University's award winning graduate program in Historic Preservation. Taking Part in Preservation Eastern activities allows members to gain valuable practical experience in the many different areas of the historic preservation field.

**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, activities, events, and fieldtrips for the upcoming year. So join now and get involved!!! The initial membership fee is only $15 and is valid for one year. Thereafter, annual dues are $10 per person. We are excited to have you join us! your membership and involvement will insure the future growth and success of the organization!!!

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Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

(To be completed by PE Board Member)

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