



# HPPA Newsletter

Spring 2015

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With an HPPA membership you help support one of the oldest historic preservation planning programs in the United States. Cornell's historic preservation planning students and alumni benefit from this professional alumni organization in a number of ways:

- networking at major national preservation conferences and Cornell AAP/CRP sponsored events
- scholarships for conference registrations and thesis research
- access to hpp student and alumni news through the HPPA website and newsletter

Please consider a new or renewed basic membership today! A form to mail is attached or go [on-line](#).

## Letter from the President

This past fall HPPA released an online survey to gauge the effectiveness and outreach of our work as an alumni organization. We received an excellent response from alumni and students. You can read more about the results in this newsletter's feature article. Thank you to everyone who provided their helpful comments and insight.



We will be taking this information and using it to guide us through a strategic planning process that will chart a course for HPPA over the next few years. Relevancy is essential to any organization, and with the changing demographics and needs of our alumni, HPPA needs to be responsive and ready to continue providing meaningful programs and assistance. Keep your eyes peeled for more to come on this topic.

*Jennifer L. Buddenberg*  
 Jennifer Buddenberg

## New Lifetime Memberships Matched by Michael Tomlan

*By Kristen Olson, Class of 2008*

HPPA received a tremendous boost in 2013-2014 thanks to a generous commitment by Professor Michael Tomlan to match all new lifetime memberships made before January 1, 2015. In just over 12 months, we welcomed seven new lifetime members: Barbara Ebert, James Glass, Jack Glassman, Carol Ingald, Beth Johnson, Ashima Krishna, and Elizabeth Meyer. These additions bring our total lifetime member count to 37.

Thank you to our new lifetime members and to Michael for their generous support of HPPA.

Lifetime memberships remain a great option for providing lasting support to the Cornell HPP alumni network. An individual can join for \$300 and a family for \$450. Our basic annual membership fee of \$35 is a more affordable way of supporting the many HPPA programs and events that benefit alumni and students.

If you aren't currently an HPPA member, consider joining our network to help ensure that Cornell's HPP program remains one of the most unique and robust in the country. Join today by visiting our website at [www.hppalumni.org](http://www.hppalumni.org).

## Guiding HPPA into the Future

By Jenny Buddenborg, Class of 2005

Last year HPPA released a survey to members and supporters to gauge the effectiveness of our alumni organization and solicit ideas for improvement. This is a first step towards developing a new strategic plan for HPPA. It has been nearly ten years since our organization undertook such a process. We are overdue. The insight collected from this survey will help guide our efforts in determining the future of our organization and how it supports our ever growing and changing alumni network.

The survey ultimately elicited a healthy response from 39 individuals. The vast majority of respondents (92%) were alumni with the remainder consisting of enrolled students. As one can imagine given the demographic draw of HPP, the eastern portion of the United States was well represented, with a smattering of voices shared by folks residing in the South, Midwest, Intermountain West, West Coast, and even Mexico.

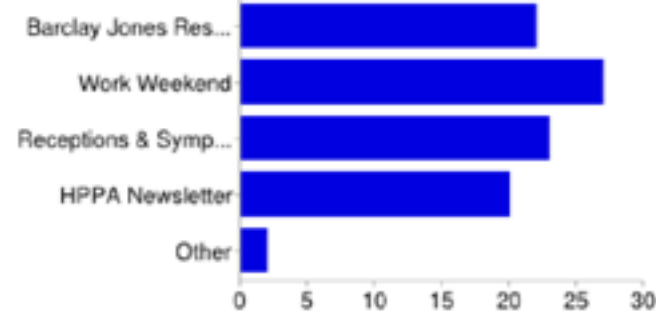
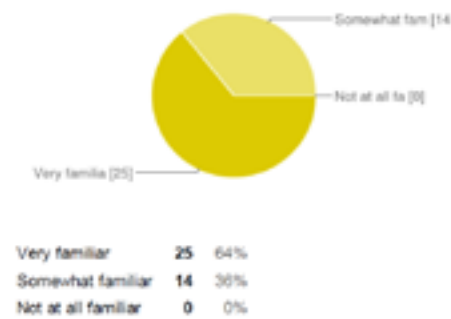
Interestingly, 69% of respondents are currently employed in the field of historic preservation. No further inquiry into this question was offered in the survey, so the jobs of the remaining 31% are unknown. However, this is a question that HPPA is keen to pursue to better understand alumni trajectory and application of our Cornell degrees.

A little more than a third of respondents are dues paying members. Of the 64% who are not, a handful are lifetime members. Other reasons for not being an active dues paying member range from being unsure of member status, forgetting to renew, not receiving a renewal request, and lack of clarity surrounding member benefits.

Every respondent indicated some level of familiarity with HPPA's mission and work. The majority (64%) feel that they are very familiar with 36% stating that they are somewhat familiar. Work Weekend is by far the most recognized HPPA program, in part due to alumni participating during their time as students. Nearly three-quarters of respondents have attended a Work Weekend. The next highest attended HPPA event is the alumni reception at the National Preservation Conference (41%) followed by the Cornell Preservation Symposium (33%). Thirteen percent have not attended any HPPA sponsored activity.

An equal number of respondents (18%) are and are not interested in becoming involved in HPPA, while most fell in the middle with a maybe (44%). A little more than a fifth (21%) are already involved in some way. For those interested in becoming involved, several mentioned an interest in serving on the Board of Directors. Others offered assistance in increasing awareness of HPPA, recruiting alumni for events, and participating in HPPA programs.

The highest valued and most effective HPPA program or offering that meets the organization's mission is considered to be Work Weekend (69%). It is followed by receptions and symposiums (59%), Barclay Jones Research Fund (56%), and HPPA Newsletter (5%).



Continued on page 6

## Welcome to New Board Members

By Jenny Buddenborg, Class of 2005

HPPA is excited to welcome three new members to our Board of Directors in 2015. Natalie Franz, Susan Lawson and Emma Waterloo join for the 2015-2017 term. Katelin Olson and Greg Prichard were elected for second terms. Sean McGee also joins as the PSSO representative, replacing Gaby Brito.

Whenever we welcome new directors we say farewell to outgoing directors. Gratitude is extended to Brian Beadles, Jayme Breschard Thomann, Shauna Haas and Ed Fitzgerald for their years of dedication to HPPA.

### Natalie Franz, Class of 2009

#### Planner, Midwest Region, National Park Service

Natalie Franz is an Upstate New York native now residing in Denver, Colorado, in a 120 year old house. Since 2010, she has been a planner for the Midwest Region of the National Park Service, working on planning documents for current parks and studies of potential park units in 13 states. She is interested in barns, historic estates, barns on historic estates, and the history of the gilded age and progressive era.



### Susan (Gordon) Lawson, Class of 2003

#### Architect, Johnson-Schmidt & Associates

Susan practices as a registered architect with a specialty in historic preservation. She also wears an architectural historian hat, writing National Register nominations and tax credit applications. She has not strayed too far from Cornell, living in Albany and working for a firm in Corning. Susan served as PSSO President and after graduation served on local boards such as the Troy Riverfront Farmers Market and the building committee for the Troy Food Cooperative. With a son poised to start kindergarten, she finds herself with more time to give back to the community and her Cornell alumni network.



### Emma Waterloo, Class of 2010

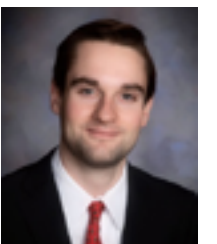
#### Landmarks Preservationist, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

Emma Waterloo was graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies in 2008. A recipient of the Barclay Jones Research Grant, she completed her Master's thesis on the evolving preservation ethic of the New York City Transit Authority's stewardship of the New York City subway system. Since graduation, Ms. Waterloo has worked in the private sector for both large and small firms based out of New York and the District of Columbia, allowing her to work on preservation-related projects across the country. In her current employment as a Landmarks Preservationist with New York City's Landmarks Preservation Commission, she reviews applications to restore, rehabilitate, or alter designated individual landmarks and properties in historic districts throughout the city as well as providing guidance to owners and architects and presenting to the commission at public hearings.



### Sean McGee, Class of 2016

Sean McGee is a first year graduate student pursuing a Master of Arts in Historic Preservation Planning. He graduated from Cornell University with a Bachelor of Science degree in the History of Architecture and Urban Development and a minor in Landscape Studies in May of 2014. For the past two years, Sean has served as the Roosevelt Island Historical Society's Summer Intern. He is very excited to serve as PSSO President and looks forward to becoming more familiar with the members of HPPA.





## Spotlight on Class of 2003

By Susan Gordon Lawson, Class of 2003

### Jason Allen

In 2004, with thesis formatting yet to finish, I took a job with a cultural resources management firm in Portland, OR, meeting up with my wife Laura and then two-month-old daughter, Elsie, who had flown out ahead of me. In June I finished up the thesis, and received the degree that fall. I was doing historical research, writing historical contexts, regulatory compliance work, and archaeology in Oregon and Washington for a few years, before moving on to do some independent contracting for a brief time. In 2006, we had our second child, son Emmett. In 2008, I was hired by an environmental resources firm to lead their historic preservation program throughout Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska. In 2012, I began as the lead of Regulatory Compliance at the Oregon SHPO, covering all state and federal projects in Oregon, and coordinating between the built environment and archaeological teams. We lived in Portland for a year and a half, with me commuting to the capitol in Salem every day. But lack of sleep made this untenable and we moved, sadly leaving Portland behind. While the compliance program is my primary focus, I do an occasional National Register nomination, speak to Certified Local Governments, and consult on rehabilitation projects that (with a little creativity) can avoid adverse effects. I also get out on occasion to do community surveys and coordinate with Tribes.



### Sigrid JJ Bergland

I was able to return to my home state of Michigan soon after graduation and found a job with the Michigan Department of Transportation as a Cultural Resources Coordinator (aka Historian for non-preservationists). I get to do a little bit of everything, like researching structures, coordinating with SHPO staff, completing tons of paperwork, managing survey consultants, reviewing grant applications, and visiting the far reaches of the state. I have also been to some pretty interesting places from basements (complete with dead rats) to the top of lighthouses (complete with mammoth spiders), and recently got to poke around a bit in the gear area of a 1940 bascule bridge. Working for a transportation agency is rarely dull because every project is unique, and there is always something new to learn around the next bend in the road. Right now I am working on the removal, relocation and rehabilitation of a pony truss bridge, the last on our roadway system. It began its life in Detroit in the early 1920s, moved 150 miles away to a rural area in 1938, and now is hopefully going to find a happy new home in the next county on a local road. Otherwise, I am continuing to work on my 1961 ranch home, always a work in progress.

### Trina Meiser

I've worked at AECOM for the past seven years and moved to New Orleans about a year ago. I mainly do Section 106 compliance for federal agencies—military, transportation, etc. in various geographies. Tama and I went to the National Trust conference this past fall—first one I have gone to since grad school, and it was fun to see Michael and the students.

### Susan Gordon Lawson

After graduation I returned to Pittsburgh to work for the architecture firm I had left prior to attending Cornell. The following year I moved and spent eight years with Argus Architecture & Preservation in Troy, NY. I was in charge of the preparation and development of many upstate

rehabilitation projects. I passed my registration exams and became a licensed architect and LEED Accredited Professional. Over a year ago I took a job with Elise Johnson-Schmidt's office in Corning. Elise is a Cornell Architecture alum and her firm does lot of excellent work in Ithaca. In fact, we are part of the team for the Chain Works District project—the old Morse Chain factory located on South Aurora between Downtown and Ithaca College. I joke that I'm probably the only architect that prefers to NOT design and instead maintain the legacy of architects long dead. When I'm not working, you can find me building snowmen with my 5-year-old son, playing board games with my husband, or travelling to visit my friends who are scattered about the country.

### Kristin Kowalski Sayre

Immediately after graduating from Cornell, I went to work as an administrative and technical assistant at Crawford & Stearns, Architects and Preservation Planners, in Syracuse, NY. I assisted with field documentation of historic structures; historic structure reports and building conditions assessment reports; historical research; and local, state, and federal historic preservation law and regulation compliance consultation. In 2004 I went to work as a neighborhood planner with the City of Syracuse's Department of Community Development. I contributed to the Syracuse Neighborhood Initiative neighborhood development and program planning; was the staff assistant to the Syracuse Landmark Preservation Board; the Tomorrow's Neighborhoods Today Sector 4 neighborhood planner; and worked on Community Development Block Grant funding reviews and the HUD Consolidated Plan. By 2006 I had moved on to my current position as a real estate specialist with the New York State Department of Transportation. I work in the Office of Right-of-Way, which manages eminent domain proceedings. I am the regional property manager, managing the Department's surplus property and rentals of right-of-way in six Central New York counties. I live in Camillus, NY with my husband and daughter.

### Susan Shutte

After graduating from Cornell I began working as a preservationist for the New Jersey State Park System at Ringwood Manor, a National Historic Landmark District that was formerly the 19th century summer estate of the Cooper & Hewitt families. After almost 12 years, I'm still working on various preservation and conservation projects. I've done a variety of things including disaster management and recovery, museum registration work, event planning, grant writing, educational programming, historic site insurance and security issues, and most importantly, navigating the ins and outs of working for a state government agency. Most recently I oversaw a two year, \$1.6 million dollar interior conservation project of 30 of the 51 rooms in the Manor, including conservation of all original interior contents of the building and the installation of a museum quality HVAC system. The work was completed in time to reopen in April of 2014 for the 75th anniversary. My husband Eric and I, along with our goofy labrador retriever, Mr. Riley, live inside of the park in the former coachman's residence (c. 1865) where I spend my free time repairing plaster walls and stripping historic woodwork.

### Tama Tochihara

Since graduation I have been working for a small firm in Eugene, OR called Heritage Research Associates. There are a number of archaeologists with our firm and I do the above ground, mostly Section 106 work (Department of Transportation, Federal Highway, Bonneville Power, city and county governments and other Federal agencies). I also do independent consulting work, Certified Local Government projects through our Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (RLS, ILS, National Register, etc). I was a Diversity Scholar for the National Trust for 2014. I have been recently reconnecting with my thesis topic of Issei Japanese American Gardens in the Seattle region, collaborating on similar research in Oregon and am volunteering for the African American Historic Places project in Oregon. My first daughter Moya was born while I was at Cornell, and she is now in middle school. Keiko and Emi are right behind in 4th and 1st grade.

## Join Work Weekend in New Bedford, Massachusetts

By Jon Rusch, Class of 2012

PSSO extends a special invitation to HPP alumni for this year's Work Weekend, taking place April 16-19 in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Participants will contribute to the rehabilitation of the National Register-listed First Baptist Church of New Bedford, constructed in 1829. Event organizers are partnering with two local groups, the Waterfront Historic Area League (known as WHALE--take another pass at Moby-Dick if you don't get the joke) and Your Theater, who aim to adaptively reuse the church as a performance venue. All alumni are welcome to come to New Bedford to donate sweat equity and contribute to this very worthy project! Primary working days are Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18; lodging is on your own.

Of particular note: HPPA is supporting an alumni and student mixer planned for the evening of the 18th, at 7:30pm (exact location TBD). Alumni in New England and beyond are invited to attend and connect with past and current students--participation in the full weekend is by no means required.

Please plan to take part in this year's Work Weekend and contribute to the revitalization of downtown New Bedford, an incredible historic place that has fallen on some hard times. For additional information or to RSVP for any or all of the event, please contact student organizers Sean McGee (spm238@cornell.edu) and Ana Felisa Huckfeldt (amh374@cornell.edu).



## Guiding HPPA into the Future

(continued from page 9)

Suggestions for additional activities/programs to further support alumni and the HPP program were broad and creative:

- Outreach to alumni outside the United States
- Receptions/mixers/meet-ups in cities where there is a concentration of alumni
- More activity that encourages alumni to actively support one another, such as news of job openings
- Annual alumni report
- Mentorship program between alumni and enrolled students
- More information on status of HPP program student work
- Greater alumni presence at Work Weekend

Thank you to those who provided valuable thoughts and ideas via this survey. Our ears are always open so if you weren't able to share your voice via this outreach feel free to email your thoughts to [president@hppalumni.org](mailto:president@hppalumni.org). The HPPA Board of Directors is excited to take this next step in our organization's evolution and will do our best to keep everyone apprised of our progress and outcome.

## HPPA Awards Barclay Jones Research Fund Grants in 2014

By Greg Prichard, Class of 2011

HPPA was pleased to award three current students with Barclay Jones Research Grants last year. The three theses described by the applicants cover diverse and fascinating topics that we know will contribute greatly to preservation scholarship and knowledge.

**Maria Gabriela Brito, M.A. Candidate**

**"The Development of the California Style in Argentina and its Relation with the California Mission Style"**

Gaby's thesis will explore how architectural ideas and styles migrated between North and South America, particularly between Argentina and the United States. Her research will involve trips to Argentina and California.

**Rashmi Gajare, M.A. Candidate**

**"Sustainable Design Certification Systems and Historic Preservation"**

Sustainability in architecture and construction is a growing trend and concern. Rashmi's thesis will examine how preservation is considered in certification systems, focusing on the environmental economics of adaptive reuse and the promotion of preservation as a sustainable practice.

**Jiageng Zhu, M.A. Candidate**

**"Restoration of Railway Stations and Station Area Redevelopment in Tokyo"**

This thesis will examine the impact of recent transportation development on Tokyo's railway heritage, especially railway stations. Jiageng hopes to provide insight into how an area's vanishing heritage can be adapted despite a fast changing urban landscape.

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**Beth Johnson** (HPP 2006) is the new Deputy Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Austin. After working in Covington, Kentucky, as the local Historic Preservation Officer for several years, Beth has returned to Texas and will be working with owners to make sure they meet their associated design guidelines in both the National Register and Local Historic Districts of Austin as they make changes to their properties. She will also be implementing a citywide architectural survey.



**Steve Jordan** (HPP 2009) has published a new book, *The Window Sash Bible: A Guide to Maintaining and Resoring Old Wood Windows*. A long time contributor to *Old House Journal* and other rehabilitation publications, Steve lives in Rochester, NY. He operates a window rehabilitation company called "A Pain in the Glass." Steve's thesis was "Woodgraining in America: 1828-1923."





**Historic Preservation Planning Alumni, Inc.  
Membership Form**

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

**Home Information:**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send mail to my Home  Work

**Work Information:**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Category:**

- Student \$15.00
- Post graduation (2 years) \$15.00
- Alumni \$35.00
- Friend \$35.00
- Contributor \$50.00
- Life (individual) \$300.00
- Life (2 people at same address) \$450.00

**You can also just follow  
this [link](#) to our website  
and join on-line!**

Membership Subtotal: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Contributions:**

HPPA's Operating Budget \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Barclay Gibbs Jones Endowment Fund to support the Historic Preservation  
Planning Program at Cornell \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Contributions Subtotal: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**I am interested in helping HPPA by:**

- Contributing to HPPA Newsletter (articles, alumni news, etc.)
- Helping to organize HPPA education events (alumni lecture series at Cornell, work weekends)
- Organizing an event in my area

Serving on a Committee (check off any below)

- |                                     |   |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archives   | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership/Directory     | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reps Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology  |

**New Members Only:**

By virtue of my membership in HPPA, Inc. I hereby agree to accept the By-Laws of the Corporation (HPPA, Inc.) as now or hereafter duly adopted.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to "HPPA, Inc." and return this form to HPPA, Inc., P.O. Box 692, Ithaca, NY, 14851-0692. Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Your cancelled check is your receipt.*

## Who is HPPA?

Although the idea of incorporating an alumni organization was presented in 1984, HPPA was officially founded in 1985. A working group was formed during the National Trust Conference. This working group was charged with preparing a set of by-laws, outlining a mission, developing a membership list, and identifying programs and services that would be supported by the group.

The first meeting of the board was held in the spring of 1985. One of the original members of HPPA went on to found PSSO, the Preservation Studies Student Organization. HPPA's main source of funding comes from the annual Historic Urban Plans' map sale and membership dues. The Board is guided by three objectives: (1) Program Support: HPPA will promote and support the Historic Preservation Planning program at Cornell University and its participants; (2) Member

Support: HPPA will facilitate contact between members, inform members of preservation topics and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and dissemination of information concerning the program, the field and current issues; (3) Community Education and Support for the Profession: HPPA will advance the knowledge of members and the community at large regarding preservation issues, activities and developments in the field.

With an HPPA membership you help support one of the oldest and most unique historic preservation planning programs in the United States. Since 1985, this professional alumni organization has benefited Cornell's historic preservation planning students and alumni in a number of ways, including providing funds to students for travel to conferences and class trips, organizing and hosting the Cornell Alumni Reception at the annual National Trust Conference, producing and distributing newsletters, providing Career advice to students and alumni, addressing issues related to professional practice through lectures at Cornell, and providing membership assistance.

Historic Preservation Planning Alumni  
P.O. Box 692, Ithaca, NY 14851

Find us on the web at  
[www.hppalumni.org](http://www.hppalumni.org)  
and on Facebook  
and at LinkedIn!

### HPPA Board of Directors

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*Vice President*
- Katelin Olson,  
*Secretary*
- Beth Johnson,  
*Treasurer*
- Alec Bennett
- Natalie Franz
- Susan Lawson
- Kristen Olsen
- Greg Prichard
- Jon Rusch
- Stephanie Smith
- Emma Waterloo
- Jeff Chusid,  
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*PSSO Representative*