



HPPA Newsletter

Fall / Winter 2006

Historic Preservation Planning Alumni, Inc.
P.O. Box 4362 • Ithaca, New York 14852

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HPPA Board of Directors

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Elizabeth "Liz" Blazeovich, David Dean
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Membership Drive

HPPA is grateful for the level of support its members have shown over the years. We're making it possible for students to attend more events and field trips, and have a more full experience of the HPP program than they would if we weren't here. Naturally, we would like to do more. Approximately one-third of former participants in the HPP program are now HPPA members. Through improved communication with HPP alumni – through our Newsletter and our website – we think we can double our membership, and our support of the program.

Simple Things You Can Do To Help

1. Keep your HPPA membership current.
It's still \$35 for alumni and friends of the program, and \$25 for students.
2. Pass along the website address: hppalumni.org to colleagues and former classmates, especially those with whom you think we might have lost touch.
3. Contribute items of interest to the website and newsletter, so that these reflect an organization as diverse and dynamic as we are!

101 Ways to Get Involved in HPPA

- Join a committee (they could all use your input and help!)
- Send a post to one of the hppalumni.org blogs
 - Send a preservation link to the website
 - Put our link on your website
 - Run for a spot on the HPPA Board of Directors
 - Nominate someone to the Board
 - Help us keep in touch with you and your classmates via the website
 - Let us know about events we should already know about
 - Host an event when HPP / HPPA comes to your town
 - Contribute to the Newsletter
 - Be a presenter at Career Day
 - Hire an HPP intern
 - Or, choose from at least 89 other bright ideas of your own

To join or renew your membership, you can download the form at "hppalumni.org" and sent it to us at:
HPPA Membership • P.O. Box 4362 • Ithaca, New York 14852

From the Top President's Letter

Greetings from the Historic Preservation Planning Alumni Board. We are very excited to be distributing The Newsletter once again! Many have agreed that the newsletter is one of the best ways in which alumni can be kept informed about what is happening both with the HPP program and its alumni. In the hope of increasing readership, The Newsletter will now be available in both hardcopy and electronic versions. We hope that all our members will enjoy and benefit from the information provided, and will be encouraged and motivated to contribute to it in any way they can.

My wife and I had the pleasure of welcoming the new and returning students to Ithaca with a BBQ at my house. It was a pleasant event where the students had a chance to meet each other along with some of the local alumni: Julee Johnson, Barb Ebert, and Kristen Brennan. Chip Briscoe came from Texas by way of Vermont. An HPP event wouldn't be an event without Donna Wiernicki, who brought her husband Neil. Jeffery Chusid, the new HPP professor, came by, and of course Michael Tomlan and his wife Mary were there.

HPPA recently past its 20th year mark as an organization, and as is typical with any volunteer group, there have been periods of greater activity than others. Although HPPA has been rather quiet as of late, it has continued to provide financial support to the students during the annual work weekend and to various field trips and conferences, which is one of our primary purposes. HPPA's assistance to the students has only been possible because of the support of its members and their past contributions to the Barclay Jones Fund. On behalf of the Board, I thank you for your past and continued support.

I would also like to thank: new Board Member David Dean (HPP '88) for lending his technical expertise and more of his time than he spends on his day job; HPP faculty and Ex-Officio HPPA Board member Jeffery Chusid, for helping to keep HPPA synchronized with the HPP program; HPPA Vice-President Lorena Permuy for her articulate development of a much-needed Strategic Plan; and, as always, the people who have been consistent and thoughtful advocates for making HPPA the best it can be, Barbara Ebert, Julee Johnson, and, especially, Mike Tomlan.

As we approach the end of another tax-year, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to continue carrying on HPPA's mission: *to promote and support the Historic Preservation Planning program, its students and its alumni.*

One of the difficulties as an organization is that our Board and its members are widely dispersed across both the United States and the World. This makes getting together as a group difficult. Last year Lorena Permuy took on the task of sorting through our archives and in doing so was instrumental in developing a strategic plan for the Board to work towards as we set our sights on the future. Several of the items on the Board's agenda are presented in this newsletter, one of which is planning for the 25th anniversary of HPPA and the 35th anniversary of the Historic Preservation Planning degree program in 2010.

Please join us as we look forward to an exciting year in which many ideas will begin to be implemented, making HPPA a stronger and more vital alumni organization.

Sincerely Yours,

Alphonse F. Pieper '97
President, HPPA

On the Air!
HPPA Website
by David Dean
HPPA Technology Committee

We are very excited about the launch of the new HPPA website, <http://www.hppalumni.org>, and its potential to further the goals of HPPA. Hopefully this site will facilitate knowledge sharing between members and help them stay in touch. It's also intended to be a forum for presenting interesting projects and preservation news.

Here's a brief summary of our current status and "coming soon" features:

CURRENTLY

- * You can now visit the site by entering <http://www.hppalumni.org> in your browser.
- * Several mailing lists have been created to facilitate communications within the organization. There are now mailing lists for each of the committees and a mailing list for communicating to the entire membership, "everyone@hppalumni.org." About fifty members have joined this list so far. If you did not receive the invitation to join this list, please send an email to feedback@hppalumni.org we will send you an invite.
- * Already up and running are: preservation news articles; board meeting information; links to other preservation sites; an "about" page with a detailed HPPA history; and an on-line version of this newsletter.
- * There is a calendar page where you can look for upcoming HPPA events, conference dates, etc.

COMING SOON

- * Member Login - We want to be able to have a "members only" area of the website, and also to provide a secure way for members to view and update their membership data. When this feature is up and running you will be emailed an invitation to activate your website login. Certain areas of the website, such as the alumni directory, will require your login to access. In addition, you will be able to update your membership contact information at any time, and ultimately be able to make dues payments and donations on-line.
- * "Project of the Month" is the working title for a section of the site where we hope to feature narratives, photos, maps, and drawings of alumni projects. We have one cool project lined up for the first spot, but we'll need some more volunteers or we'll be forced to reconsider the name of this feature.
- * More photos - we'd liked to make the site much more visual, as befits the subject. We plan to rotate contributed photos in a prominent spot on the home page, and to archive all submitted photos in a gallery where all these photos can be browsed.

We still have a bunch of work to do and would really appreciate any ideas or feedback that you'd like to have us incorporate. Please especially let us know about events, links, or news items you think should be on the site, or if you have content to contribute. We can be reached by email at feedback@hppalumni.org.

Looking Forward
A Strategic Plan for HPPA
by Lorena Permuy
HPPA Vice-President

The Board of Directors of HPPA feel the time has come to seriously reflect on the organization's purpose and determine how it can better accomplish its goals and objectives. The mission of the HPPA is to *promote and support the Historic Preservation Planning program, its students and its alumni*. Approaching its Twenty-fifth (25th) Anniversary and the Thirty-fifth (35th) Anniversary of the Historic Preservation Planning (HPP) Program in 2010, the Board would like to thoughtfully and creatively plan for its active and influential role during this significant period.

The proposed Strategic Plan being developed is an attempt to clearly define the organization's goals and objectives and how it plans to achieve them. With this better understanding and with a clear framework in which to work with, the HPPA will be more successful in fulfilling its mission.

Some of the goals and objectives being considered by the Board include:

- Review of the HPPA's By-Laws, bringing them up-to-date
- Development of an Annual Work Plan, including a master plan.
- Bringing back the Newsletter
- Creation of a Website
- Development of HPPA Sponsored Project(s) and/or Programs
- Review of Budget and Embarking on a Major Fundraising Campaign
- Involvement/Input in changes to the HPP Program itself

These objectives are currently being developed and the manner of their implementation determined. Thus, it is an excellent time for HPPA members to get involved. Suggestions and ideas for the Strategic Plan are welcomed. Any important issues you consider the organization should be addressing need to be brought to our attention. It is an exciting time for the HPPA to really get involved in a number of activities that could be influential in implementing positive changes for both the Program and the Department of City & Regional Planning. Strong and active alumni involvement will ensure that the future of the organization will remain strong and the Program continues to be internationally renowned.

Professional Practice:

Elizabeth Egleston Giraud (HPP '88)

Is there such a thing as a typical career path that begins at the front door of West Sibley Hall? As part of our ongoing effort to share our experiences in this diverse field, we asked Elizabeth Egleston Giraud to tell us what she sees in the rearview mirror.

My studies at Cornell began in 1986. Prior to this, I had no background in historic preservation, architectural history, or architecture, with the exception of volunteer work for an advocacy organization, the Utah Heritage Foundation, in my home town of Salt Lake City.

People often ask me what led me to this field, and why I chose to attend Cornell. For a few years after college (I graduated from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon), I suffered through the usual angst of trying to choose a career. I worked for a modern dance company in Salt Lake as the Director of Development, and had a summer fellowship at the National Endowment for the Arts in 1985. All the fellowship recipients had to interview program directors, and in addition to having to interview the director of the dance program, I also drew the name of Adele

Chatfield-Taylor, at that time the director of the design arts program. I read her biography, noticed that it included a masters degree in historic preservation from Columbia University, and like a jolt from above, I knew that was what I wanted to pursue.

Adele (we were on a first-name basis then – today she is the president of the American Academy in Rome) was very gracious in advising me about the field and various historic preservation programs. The month that I met her, she was featured in a *Vanity Fair* article, as someone “you’d most like to sit next at a dinner party.” My career path has not yet inspired *Vanity Fair* to contact me, but it has been an interesting journey. A few months after graduating from Cornell in 1989, I started working as the State Architectural Historian for the Idaho SHPO in Boise. I knew I would like the job when I was asked, during the interview, if I minded traveling “in light aircraft.” It’s a small office, and because architectural historians aren’t prevalent in Idaho, I had many opportunities that would not have come my way in more populated areas. I taught American architectural history at Boise State University, served on the Boise City Historic Preservation Commission, and provided training at Forest Service workshops that just happened to include river trips on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River.

I loved my job and the time I spent in that beautiful state, but working as an architectural historian in Idaho did not bring me into contact with the resources I knew existed elsewhere. I *was* the resource, and while I enjoyed the role, I knew I needed to be in an environment in which I could expand my skills. When a position opened up in Salt Lake City in 1992, I was the successful candidate. The move gave me the chance to live near my parents, reconnect with old friends, and contribute to a city I have always loved.

And thus, for the past fourteen years, I have been the lead staff person for the Historic Landmark Commission in the Salt Lake City Planning Division. In my experience, the professional

landscape between a SHPO and the local level is akin to the difference between Mount Everest and the Gobi Desert. As a SHPO employee, among other duties, you’re called upon to serve on panels, review reports, and generally act as a bona fide expert on all preservation matters. At the local level, you’re engaged in hand-to-hand combat with property owners, community activists, and anyone involved in obtaining a building permit. The difficulty of these encounters doesn’t take into account the drama of the inevitable internecine warfare with other city departments. When I left Boise for Salt Lake, the former Planning Director of Boise told me that I would swing from hating to loving my job, and she was right.

But despite the inherent contention of local preservation, I wouldn’t trade this experience for anything. I’m grateful that my perspectives have been challenged, forcing me to think like the developers and property owners with whom I interact. I have found that when preservationists from outside the City caution me to “educate the public,” they really mean “try to make preservation as high a priority for the public as it is for us.” That is not the reality of construction, design, or development. And for the disappointment I’ve experienced with architects or activists presumed to be preservation experts, I’ve found numerous unassuming individuals, both City employees and applicants, who have stepped up when it counted and attained glorious results. On a bad day, I contemplate career opportunities at McDonald’s. On a good day, I feel the city is my personal playground on which to put my preservation stamp.

One of the hardest parts of my job is that I am a one-person shop. Our office has another planner with a historic preservation background, but due to a heavy workload, she is working on other planning and subdivision projects. I handle all the survey contracts, most of the applications reviewed by the commission, much of the management of the commission, major preservation projects, and permit review. Salt Lake City has six locally-designated historic

districts with about 4,500 properties, and generates about 250 to 300 Certificates of Appropriateness a year. Until our office commits to additional staff trained in preservation, I am unwilling to promote further adoption of local historic districts.

My husband, Richard Giraud, is a geologist for the Utah Geologic Survey. We met at a party in 1994 and married in 1997. As a landslide expert, he also attends public meetings and often interacts with planners and developers. As two people in rarefied careers, we feel fortunate to live in a city with the recreational and cultural amenities that Salt Lake offers. We live in a house of the "recent past," built in 1946, and are protective of our steel sash windows. Cornell preservationists passing through Salt Lake are welcome to call me for lunch or a tour of the city's historic districts.

The Really Big Not-So-Easy Work Weekend, 2006

Appropriately, this year the HPPA Work Weekend was held in a great American city that needs the help of preservationists and planners more than any other. In March, faculty and about ten students from HPP and CRP joined ranks with groups like ACORN and hundreds of volunteers from across the country for the recovery effort in New Orleans. The Cornell group worked on two projects: gutting several flooded houses in the devastated Ninth Ward, and developing planning documents for the reuse of the St. Roche Market building. HPPA was able to provide more than \$1,000 in assistance to students for travel and materials related to this work.

HPP faculty member Jeff Chusid led the documentation and assessment of the late-Nineteenth century St. Roche Market. One of scores of open-air public markets that served their respective neighborhoods through the middle of the 1900s. The market building had largely been

spared by Katrina. Neglect and disuse had taken more of a toll. The plan was to work with the City, which owns the building, to assist in reestablishing it as a functioning neighborhood market. CRP faculty member John Forester guided the CU work on gutting houses and collaboration with ACORN, the City, and other groups as plans for the redevelopment of the Ninth Ward and other affected areas were being debated.

No one who made the trek will ever forget it. Six months after Katrina, huge trees still rested on houses. Between the Ninth Ward and "Tent City," where the Cornell group stayed, one could be forgiven for wondering if blue tarped roofs and spraypainted circles and X's were part of some kind of zoning ordinance.

Tent City, established by FEMA on part of a nearby naval base, was a story in itself. There were six or seven residential tents, about 75'-wide by 200'-long, with rows of cots that converged like railroad tracks. Each tent accommodated 500 people. There was a dining tent large enough to serve a small town in one shift, with long lines of sinks on either side of the entrance. As you entered the cafeteria-style food line, your ID badge was scanned from several feet away by a scanner-pistol-packing volunteer. There was a large recreation tent, with tables and board games and dozens of sofas around an extra-wide wide-screen TV. There was a laundry tent. There were dozens and dozens of trailers with four or five showers each, with hot water!

After all the work, one might wonder how the CU group had anything left at the end of the day. They were just getting started, and headed Uptown, to show the local folks at the world-famous "Rock-N-Bowl" how they do things *Upstate*. There, the only way to tell whether the CU students were bowling or dancing to the outstanding Zydeco band was whether either of the hands they waved in the New Orleans air had a bowling ball in it.



St. Roch Market New Orleans, LA 2006



Group Photo of Work Weekend 2006



Looking at Plans- Work Weekend 2006

Introducing Jeff Chusid:
Our New Associate Professor
in Historic Preservation Planning



Before joining us at Cornell, Professor Chusid headed Historic Preservation programs at the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Southern California. His recent research has focused on the fate of historic resources in areas of cultural exchange and conflict; the conservation of Modernist Architecture of Southern California; and cultural landscapes. Current projects include a book on Frank Lloyd Wright's Freeman House in Los Angeles, materials conservation for the restoration of Wright's Ennis House, and a Preservation Plan for Austin, Texas.

Professor Chusid has consulted on public policy, resource inventory, conservation, and urban design for cities all across the world. He is an architect, with built projects in California cities and building and landscape conservation projects for several museums. He has taught architectural history, theory, and design at Harvard, Sci-Arc, Berkeley, Cal Poly Pomona, Texas, and USC.

HPPA welcomes Professor Chusid to Ithaca and the program. We look forward to working with him.

Dollar Signs
Treasurer's Report
by Chip Briscoe, HPPA Treasurer

On behalf of the HPPA Board, I would like to extend a hearty thanks to all of you who have recently joined or renewed your membership with HPPA, and especially to those who have consistently contributed to HPPA over the years. You have put us in a strong financial position, enabling us to support the Cornell HPP program in a variety of important ways. Let me take a moment to let you know where your money goes.

HPPA maintains two accounts: the HPPA General Fund, and the Barclay Gibbs Jones Fund.

The General Fund is used to support functions such as our annual Work Weekend, Career Day, various HPP/alumni gatherings, and to pay for our regular HPPA business expenses. The Jones Fund, established in memory of Barclay after his death in 1997, was created primarily to assist HPP students with travel expenses.

A little more than two years ago, with the idea of providing HPP students a level of support they could depend on from year to year, the HPPA Board approved the annual budget described below.

The current annual budget for the HPPA General Fund is \$1,850. Typically the funds are applied in this way: \$400 for reception(s) for Career Day / Professional Practice; \$400 for materials and other support for Work Weekend activities; \$250 for other HPPA functions; \$650 for HPPA business / postage. Recently we added \$150 to the General Fund budget for the annual cost of OUR NEW WEBSITE! About \$1,250 of the funds for the General Fund budget comes from membership renewals and additional donations. The remainder, about \$600, comes from the annual map sale held by

Historic Urban Plans, which that organization generously splits with us (Thank you Julee and Mike!). We also have some interest income from a \$5,000 CD we recently purchased with Cornell Fingerlakes Credit Union.

Four years ago, Julee Johnson spearheaded a fund drive for the Barclay Gibbs Jones Fund that raised over \$15,000 from friends and supporters of the HPP program, and from those fortunate enough to have studied with Barclay. With these funds, we purchased three \$5,000 Certificates of Deposit. Our practice, with both the General and Jones Funds, is to buy a CD whenever we have funds to cover two years of our budget, plus enough to buy a CD.

The Jones Fund has an annual budget of \$750, which is used to support student travel to conferences, field trips, and sometimes, as we did this past March, to support student travel for the Work Weekend. Of this budget, approximately \$400 comes from donations added to membership renewals, & approximately \$350 from interest on the Jones Fund CDs.

As you probably know, HPPA is a 501c(3) not for profit organization, and your contributions are tax-deductible. We welcome your comments and suggestions about how we can better support the HPP program, and fulfill the other aspects of our charter. *Join us as we put the "fun" back in "fund-raising"!*



Susan Gordon Lawson HPP
Class of 2003
sg_lawson@yahoo.com

Been at my current firm (Argus Architecture and Preservation) for over a year now. I'm working on the master plan for Byrdcliffe Arts Colony which some members may remember from a recent past HPP Work Weekend. My husband and I bought a 1927 Cape Cod and we're using my HPP knowledge and his construction skills to repair/restore it.

Lex Campbell HPP '95
lexcamp@yahoo.com

Current firm: SGH Design and Consulting Engineers

Recent projects: The Ferry Building rehabilitation, San Francisco (2002); the Easter Columbia Building rehabilitation (façade specifications) Los Angeles (2005); St Dominic's Church rehabilitation, San Francisco (2006).

2006 news: I was married to Bobbi Lynn Jones in March.

(The entire newsletter staff would like to thank all those who took a few minutes to share with us, and inspire us, by letting us know what you're up to. Thanks!)

Lifetimes of Thanks

HPPA Life Members

Bruce Barton, Suzanna Barucco, Richard Carlson, Julee Johnson, Richard Nicholson, Lombard John Pozzi, Diana Prideax-Brune, Carl Stearns, Andrea Tingey, Alphonse Pieper and Michael Tomlan

Thanks for all you've done. We hope to see you in cyber space, and with the spring 2007 HPPA Newsletter!

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