



Community Preservation

*The Newsletter of the Historic Preservation Program
At Bucks County Community College Fall 2008*

Honorable Mention, 4th, 3rd, 1st!

By Kathryn Ann Auerbach

"It is foolish I know to grieve for things of stone ... (but) I can't think why men would believe that it is a better world where something beautiful is destroyed and something broken left in its place."

- Philippa Gregory

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YES! 1ST PLACE in the Charles E. Peterson Prize Competition for architectural measured drawings of the Best Farm Stone Barn was awarded to BCCC Historic Preservation students in judging held this past August. "This was by far the most competitive in recent memory," commented Mark Shara, Architect for the Historic American Buildings Survey, who coordinates the competition. Fourteen major universities and colleges of architecture and design had submissions in this year's competition, designed to encourage high standards of drawings and documentation of our nation's architectural heritage. Those drawings that meet the guidelines of the Historic American

Buildings Survey are repositied in the Library of Congress as a permanent record. "It is an honor to be among the entire slate of competitors whose work has always been of exceptional quality," stated Bucks Instructor and Project Coordinator Kathryn Ann Auerbach. "The students worked very hard to produce this beautiful set that not only documents the unique stone barn at Monocacy Battlefield in Frederick, Maryland, but also provides the park with useful information on the evolution and changes in the structure and its present level of stabilization."



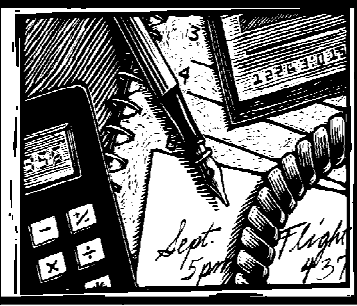
The Stone Barn drawings completed a series of HABS projects BCCC performed for the National Park Service under a five-year co-operative agreement. Previous projects have included the Brawner Farm House (Manassas Battlefield Park, Virginia - 3rd

Place Peterson Prize), Thomas Farm-Araby Out-buildings (4th Place) and Domestic Yard (Monocacy National Battlefield, Frederick, Maryland). Thomas Vitanza, Senior Historical Architect for the NPS's Historic

Preservation Training Center has worked closely with the Bucks HABS teams on these projects. "We chose Bucks because of their ability, through drawings done by hand, to highlight the specific construction details and to provide insight into the buildings' architectural interpretations. Bucks students aren't afraid of getting down and dirty in the process of recording minute details about the structure, in the spirit of Charles Peterson's philosophy of learning architecture through 'graphic analysis'." "The parks are thrilled with the exquisite drawings that are useful for both display and in as-

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From the Coordinator's Desk



Greetings everyone and welcome to the Fall 2008 edition of the Community Preservation newsletter.

In the past I have written articles for the newsletter but never have I had such a hard time putting words to paper. I find myself struggling for something profound to say for my first "from the desk of" column as this goes with the new position.

Taking over as the Coordinator of the Historic Preservation Program at Bucks County Community College I find myself in an enviable position in the preservation community. I am very fortunate to be taking over the reins of the preservation program from my dear friend Lyle and I want to thank him for his confidence in me and my abilities. It was under his guidance that the program garnered its respect in the preservation community for its course of study, its faculty and its graduates. I look forward to the

opportunity to leverage the work that has been done to date and to continue to bring the latest thinking in preservation circles to our program.

Our student community is changing as well. We have gone beyond Bucks and the surrounding counties in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. This semester we welcome students in our on-line certificate program from the states of Oregon, Florida, Ohio, Maryland and Colorado. Our preservation community is growing and will continue to grow as we invite students from across the country to join our program. You will be hearing more about our new students and their preservation work in our next edition.

In this issue we celebrate the accomplishments of the people that make up our program, the students, faculty and volunteers. We all should take pride in what they have all accomplished and applaud them for jobs well done and for bringing accolades to the program. Please join me in giving them a round of applause and a thank you!

If there is anything you would like to share, I would love to hear from you.

- Pat Fisher-Olsen

fisherol@bucks.edu

34th Annual Forum Lecture

Ernest Hemingway Meets Preservation in Cuba



Did you ever wonder what writers' living quarters looked like? Where did they do their work? Join us on the Newtown campus of Bucks County Community

College on November 14 for a behind-the-scenes lecture about the Ernest Hemingway residence, Finca Vigia, on the outskirts of Havana, Cuba. This is where an icon of American literature lived from 1939 until 1961 while writing *The Old Man and the Sea* and *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. This is also where Ernest Hemingway heard that he had won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1954. Today, Finca Vigia is in poor condition and badly needs restoration attention.

The Social Science Department and the Bucks County Community College Foundation, proudly sponsor the 34th annual Forum Lecture, "Ernest Heming-

way's Cuban House Restored," on Friday evening, November 14 at 7:15 pm in the Gateway Auditorium, Newtown. Mary DeNadai, a principal in the firm of John Milner Architects, Inc. and nationally known for her preservation work, will present a special powerpoint lecture on the restoration of Finca Vigia today. Her remarks will include her appointment by the U.S. Treasury Department to serve on a team of preservation specialists who were invited to assist in the preservation and restoration of Ernest Hemingway's house in Cuba. This is a rare opportunity to see how Hemingway lived years ago. The restoration efforts are impressive. Put November 14 on your calendar and invite your friends. Admission is \$20.00, or \$10.00 with student I.D. For more information contact rosenbel@bucks.edu or call 215-504-8500 ext. 6007.

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sisting with preservation decisions and historical and architectural interpretations."

The "hands-on" HABS Workshop, generally offered in the summers through the Bucks Historic Preservation Certificate Program, is open to current and former students and often sees a combination of students, experienced volunteers, career-track preservation degree interns, preservation professionals and other individuals involved with the properties being documented. The flexibility of the Bucks program allows for participation by a variety of individuals, not always seen in graduate level degree programs offered by other universities. Among the award winning competitors following Bucks' 1st Place are Kent State University - College of Architecture, School of the Art Institute of Chicago - Historic Preservation Department, College of Charleston, Clemson University - Graduate Program in Historic Preservation, Texas Tech- College

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Lyle Rosenberger Receives Preservation Award

Warmest congratulations to Professor Lyle L. Rosenberger, Director of Historic Preservation, who received the prestigious James Biddle Award for Lifetime Achievement at the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia's annual Awards luncheon on May 1. The 15th annual event, which Preservation Certificate student Rochelle Christopher calls the "Super Bowl of Preservation in the Philadelphia area," was held at the palatial Grand Ballroom in the Park Hyatt at the Bellevue. The setting was particularly appropriate for a preservation awards ceremony, as the Bellevue's exterior and publicly accessible interior spaces are part of an easement designed to preserve the historic structure. The event is the perfect place



to learn from architects and project teams the various restoration and preservation work which is underway. Among the speakers was Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter which emphasizes the prominence of the event.

Much like the late James Biddle, former President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation for whom the award was named, Lyle

Rosenberger has been a tireless advocate for historic preservation. Colleagues, former and current students, friends, and family are delighted that Lyle received the award and several were in attendance at the luncheon. "What sets Lyle apart from others," explains Jeffrey Marshall, Vice President of Resource Protection for the Heritage Conservancy, "is his remarkable energy, drive and devotion to

his students. His commitment and his passion for his work is a benchmark for the rest of us to strive for in our efforts." Tobi Bruhn, Executive Director of the Bucks County Community College Foundation and Alumni Relations states: "It was wonderful to see Lyle being recognized for his work by his peers. As a result of his commitment, passion and dedication, BCCC's Historic Preservation Program today is one of the leading certificate programs in the nation."

Lyle's achievements bring honor to all in the Bucks County community and it is tremendous to see him so properly honored. The next time you see Lyle, ask what special artifact he became responsible for as a result of the Award!

- Connie S. Griffith Houchins

Pennsylvania Barns Conference

By Maureen Victoria

The 2008 annual meeting and conference of the National Barn Alliance was co-hosted by the Historic Barn and Farm Foundation of Pennsylvania and took place June 5-7 at Kutztown University.

A full day of talks was held on Friday followed by a delicious dinner and *Charlie Obert's Barn*, a movie about the renovation of an old barn. Robert Ensminger, a noted expert on Pennsylvania barns, gave the keynote address which was followed by two tracks of talks. The sessions had topics encompassing educational curricula, traditional timber frame repairs, hex signs, the English influence on Pennsylvania barns and more.

Saturday morning the conference participants boarded buses and headed to the Oley Valley for an educational day of barn tours in Berks County. The tour included eight barns of diverse types and ages, including log and stone, English and German, and bank and ground barns. Ensminger and Greg Huber, co-author of *Stone Houses*, led the examination and explanation of roof trusses, swing beams and threshing floors. Some of the barns visited were a log Sweitzer with chestnut cribs (c. 1818); a stone German ground barn with brick relieving arches (c. 1790) and a stone Sweitzer barn (c. 1787) with a swing beam and original roof trusses.

Next year's conference will be in May in Lexington, Kentucky; make plans now to attend!



Stone barn in Newtown, Bucks Co. (Courtesy HABS #PA 5332-1)

Can't Wait Until May to Learn More About Barns?

The Horsham Preservation and Historical Association is hosting a free lecture on historic barns given by Jeff Marshall, Adjunct Instructor and Vice President of Resource Protection for the Heritage Conservancy of Bucks County. The lecture is being held on October 19 at 1 p.m. at Graeme Park in Horsham.

Guard House Restoration Begins . . .

By Jim Rodgers

To most students and faculty at Bucks County Community College the names George and Stella refer to the Tylers, former owners of our Tyler Hall and many surrounding areas. To the students who participated in the summer restoration workshop, George and Stella were the nicknames given to the two Fairmount Park guard houses which began the badly needed process of restoration.

Nine students ranging from novice to skilled attended the week-long summer restoration workshop. Day one the class was divided into two teams, each of which completed a conditions assessment of their respective building. Guard house George was in fairly good condition but Stella required major work. Stella was actually missing her entire floor and foundation.

Over the next five hot summer days both groups worked diligently from nine in the morning to four in the afternoon. The tasks included identifying and labeling all parts before any demolition could begin. The buildings are approximately one hundred years old and have stood on the Newtown campus since 1964. In the past decade little maintenance has taken place so we were surprised to find the units in reasonably good condition.

In George, the interior beadboard was removed and the wall framing beneath was repaired. Because of earlier identification by tagging and numbering (with painters tape) the interior beadboard was then attached exactly in the same position it had occupied before demolition.

The door frames were repaired but the double entry doors are in very bad condition. Perhaps at a future workshop we can create new doors for G.

For Stella the exterior siding and trim boards were removed and replaced. New framing was added and the sheathing was redone. Windows were rehabilitated and again similar to George the exterior doors are in very bad condition. One exterior side was completely removed and replaced using similar techniques and material as original. There is still plenty of work to be done.

Other work in George and Stella included removing the windows, reglazing and repairing the rotted wood parts. The windows were reinstalled prior to the weeks end to insure a weather tight seal. The guard houses have been placed in a mothballed state ready for the next group of preservationists who want to get hands-on training.



The next
Restoration
Workshop is
HIST 206.N86
in the spring
on Saturdays
9:00 am—Noon

By Maureen Victoria

This summer the Restoration Workshop (Hist 205) led by Jim Rodgers began the restoration of two guard houses that formerly were used by the now disbanded Fairmount Park Guard. Until recently they stood at the entrances of the BCCC Newtown campus. The buildings provided all the students with a fun-filled week and the opportunity to learn about historic preservation, construction and their own capabilities. Split into two groups, the class worked on both buildings simultaneously. Named Stella and George by the class after the Tylers, the buildings had different features that required attention.

At the start of the week-long class, a condition assessment survey revealed that Stella's roof was in good shape, but her floor had rotted away. George's roof was in poor condition and he needed some decayed wood replaced. While one group of students removed the interior wallboards to expose and then repair Stella's lower framing members, the other half of the class removed the exterior cedar shingles to expose and replace damaged framing and trim on George. In addition, all the windows were removed and their loose glazing and paint was scraped away. The window sashes were glazed, glued and otherwise repaired as needed then re-installed.

At the end of the week, both guard houses were reassembled. Plywood was used to cover the doorways for security purposes and pieces of pegboard were substituted for several lights in the sashes to provide ventilation. Stella is ready for her as yet un-constructed new floor and George for his new roof and cedar shingles. Both await the next group of students to give them a fresh coat of paint.

The Challenges of Adapting a Course for Online Learning

By Ray Tschoepe

I've been teaching in one capacity or another since the late 1970s. Initially I mentored one-on-one or taught the occasional small group. Since 2000, however, I have been teaching Building Conservation in Bucks County Community College's Historic Preservation program to classes ranging in size from 15-20. Most of what passes as a teaching style is derived from the dozens of instructors who populate my past: I borrow freely from the men and women I most admire in this realm. In the Fall of 2006 Lyle Rosenberger asked me if I would be willing to move my course onto the list of the college's online offerings, in addition to continuing to offer it in a traditional classroom setting. I agreed, spent a morning learning the basics of CE6 (the platform on which online course content is delivered) and set off to compose the course for the Fall 2007 semester. It was puzzling to design something for which I had no models to supply the framework. Regrettably, I'm sure it shows. I repeatedly called Ellen Schultz, the only other online instructor in the HP program at the time, for advice. As a

testament to her patience, she never threatened to change her number during that period!

Little-by-little I distilled my 2-1/2 hour lectures into readable summations. In-class demonstrations and field trips were eliminated, but I tried to see that as a challenge to add new material or expand on the existing, rather than as a loss. My approach to the online course is the same as it is in the traditional classroom. I've tried to present the material in as basic a format as possible. Rather than challenging students to play "find the hidden information" under one of the buttons, I simply lay out the assignments and goals at the beginning of each "e-lecture" much like any instructor would do at the start of a face-to-face class. This, of course, frustrates the knowledgeable people in online support who undoubtedly shake their collective heads when they realize that I'm not using CE6 to its full capacity

So far, I've had the opportunity to teach and correspond with students from seven of the 50 United States and that's in just two semesters. It's thrilling to know that Bucks is at the forefront in this mode of preservation instruction. When all is said and done though, I still miss saying "hello"

to former students when I meet them at conferences or at the grocery store. Now we can pass each other in complete anonymity. Hmmm... they might actually appreciate that.

Ray Tschoepe Named Contributing Editor of OHJ

In addition to serving as an Adjunct Instructor in the HP Program and as Director of Conservation for the Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust, Ray Tschoepe was recently named as a contributing editor of *Old House Journal*. He has authored several articles for them over the past year including porch design, epoxy, mortar, and rabbit planes.

Ray is also called upon frequently to speak at preservation conferences and workshops. Most recently he was invited by Barry Loveland from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to be a featured panelist at the International Association for Preservation Technology conference, being held in Montreal from October 13-17. The topic of the discussion is "Re-Introduction of the Trades."

Spring 2009 Course Offerings

Course #	Course Description	Location	Instructor	Time	Credits
HIST 195.N81	Introduction to Historical Archeology	Newtown	L. Rosenberger	M. 6:30 - 9:10	3
HIST 197.E59	History & Theory of Historic Preservation	Online	Staff		3
HIST 198.N84	History of American Architecture	Newtown	K. Auerbach	Th 6:30 - 9:10	3
HIST 199.E59	Methodology and Documentation	Online	J. Wells		3
HIST 203.N81	Internship	Newtown	P. Fisher-Olsen		3
HIST 204	Oral History	Newtown	C. Walsh	W 6:30 - 9:10	3
HIST 206.N86	Restoration Workshop	Newtown	J. Rodgers	Sat 9:00 - Noon	3
HIST 218.N82	Fundamentals of Drawing/HABS Workshop Newtown 5 week course, April – May, 2009	Newtown	K. Auerbach	T 6:30 - 9:10	1

Registration: For questions about registration call 215-968-8101 or Pat Fisher-Olsen, program coordinator, at 215-968-8286. there are no prerequisites, except for the internship. A "sharing form" can be secured so that residents from any county in Pennsylvania do not have to pay OUT-OF-COUNTY fees. Call Pat at 215-968-8286 or email fisherol@bucks.edu for more information.

The Tyler Legacy:

Tyler Gardens and Landscape Lecture

By Bob Bradley

On Saturday, April 26, nearly 100 visitors were treated to the first annual "Tyler Gardens and Landscape" lecture hosted by the Historic Preservation Program at Bucks County Community College. After the lecture they toured the Tyler formal gardens on campus. The lecture was sponsored by the "Friends of Stella Tyler's Gardens." The origins of this lecture began with an interest in addressing both the formal and informal landscape issues in preservation.

This lecture was presented by Adam Levine and Rob Cardillo, who teamed up to write *A Guide to the Great Gardens of the Philadelphia Region*, the main theme of the morning. Levine is a two-time winner of the Quill and Trowel Award for writing from the Garden Writer's Association. Cardillo has been photographing gardens and their caretakers for the past twenty years. Formerly the director of *Organic Gardening* magazine, he has also worked on *Flowers*, *White House Style*, and *Martha Stuart Living*. His passion is reflected in the mantra, "flowers are people too."

In his presentation, Levine stated that horticulture started in this region in the 17th century when William Penn designed Philadelphia as a "greene country towne." Within 100 years, Philadelphia became the horticultural epicenter of the colonies. The mid-Atlantic climate was ideally suited to grow a wide variety of plants from all over the east coast. In keeping with their British roots, wealthy residents built country estates outside the city with elaborate gardens designed to impress. Today, most of them are gone, either torn down in the early 20th century to make room for housing or neglected to concentrate on an historic house.

Some of the gardens highlighted by Levine and Cardillo during the lecture illustrate the region's rich horticultural history. Bartram's garden in west Philadelphia is the oldest botanical garden in the U.S. and features several original cultivar

examples. Fordhook Farms in Doylestown is on the National Register of Historic Places and was once owned by W. Atlee Burpee to use in his seed research. The Wyck house in Germantown dates from 1699 and was rebuilt by the famous William Strickland in the 1820s. It has one of the best preserved gardens in the region, with roses dating from the 1820s. The Scott and Morris arboretums feature rose gardens as part of the landscape as opposed to a more formal layout. Chanticleer in Wayne might be considered to be the "greatest of the great gardens" with 35 acres to enjoy. Some of the best spring flowers can be seen at the Barnes Foundation arboretum and some of the best fall foliage can be viewed at West Laurel Hill cemetery and Aubrey and Jenkins arboretums.

No discussion of Philadelphia formal gardens would be complete without mention of the DuPont family's contributions. The spectacular gardens at Nemours, Wintethur and Longwood, attest to the DuPont interest and investment in horticulture.

Rob Cardillo also introduced the audience to "tricks" in taking the best garden photographs. This was followed by a special tour of Tyler Formal Gardens conducted by horticulturist Russ Strover, who teaches the Historic Garden Restoration course on campus. We were guided along the paths, around sculptures and boxwood hedges of the former Tyler estate. Features such as the Orangery, remains of the pool and tennis court were also pointed out. With the help of the Tyler restoration Committee and committed volunteers, these gardens can retain their current splendor and continue to be a source of pride for the college and the community.

For more information about the April, 2009 "Tyler Garden and Landscape Lecture" and the Tyler Formal Gardens, see www.bucks.edu/tylergardens

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of Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign - School of Architecture, and Texas A&M University - College of Architecture.

There was an interstate, and even international, mix of students who participated in the Best Farm Stone Barn documentation. These include Diana Barbara-Horwitz, Jennifer Eagen, Stephen Russell and Christopher Smith from Bucks County and Kevin Keating, Vickie Stauffer and Maureen Victoria from Montgomery County. Former students and preservation professionals who volunteered include Petrona Charles and Geoffrey Raike from Bucks County, Scott Doyle from Harrisburg, Steve Gray from Baltimore, Pat Fisher-Olsen from New Jersey and Mirka John from Germany. Graduate Park Service interns include Lisa Mroszczyk and Lexa Rio from Maryland and Suzanne Stasiulatis from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. "Teamwork is an essential component of a HABS project," stressed Auerbach, "with a variety of talents such as good note taking, physical field work, carpentry skills, architectural drafting, artistic details, mechanical lettering and text printing and editing necessary to complete the ten archival, ink-on-mylar, 24" x 36" sheets. Everyone who worked on the project learned and appreciated more about vernacular stone construction, barn functions and changes, as well as how to apply that information onto paper for a permanent record of the building."

"We also learn each year from the work of previous projects and participants, and especially owe a debt of gratitude to former student, the late Rich Green, whose talents and knowledge built a strong base for the present Bucks HABS program."

The Best Farm Stone Barn was featured in *Community Preservation's* Fall 2006 issue "A Barn with a Water Table?" The drawings helped to detail interesting and unusual features of construction, including the presence of a water table, "leveling courses" in the stone work at four-foot increments, a fine arched doorway, projecting tie-in stones for an anticipated addition, and miscellaneous

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Oral History Class Forming for Spring 2009

By Connie Walsh

Oral history is the process of documenting a person's recollections in a structured interview format. As dry as this definition may seem, the actual practice of oral history is much more personal, interactive and dynamic than just a tape recording and transcript. Its dynamism springs from a relationship between two people, informant and interviewer, who come together in a mutual interest to discuss an historical event that one recalls and shares with another. It is interactive because the interviewer, prepared with some background research, is able to ask questions that examine the informant's participation, frame of mind, and historic context of the event. Through this attentive process of give and take, history comes alive for all of us in the present.

Recording an oral history project is another form of preservation, another methodology, as much as recording a building's dimensions, researching its history and writing a narrative. Oral history and oral tradition among cultures are as old as perhaps language itself. In today's context, it is most useful as a gateway to understanding the recent past, that is, of the last half of the 20th century, and as preservationists, we are already in the process of looking at the built environment and cultural landscape of this time period.

For spring 2009, I invite you all to think about a project, in the recent past of Bucks County's history. My only parameters are that this be a group project and that we find a research interest that can be carried forward for the next class. I'd like for us to build a body of knowl-

edge about a particular topic and focus on oral history but also look at material culture and architecture related to the project. There are so many worthwhile topics for those of you who've lived in the county for awhile. People tended to have their needs met more locally and identified with their communities more in the last fifty years. Think of groups of people in churches, historical societies, and businesses around the county. Union members, veterans, politicians, artists, activists for civil and women's rights, and ethnic enclaves—all these people have stories to tell and places where they gathered. These topics and many more are worth the research.

If you have some interests you'd like to explore, send me an email at cswalsh@comcast.net

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holes and patches that may have served ventilation and refuse removal purposes over the years. Additional cracks and patches document stress and damage repairs, as well as former additions and interior partitioning. The two-story barn was exceptionally large, i.e. 64' x 34', for a fully stone-constructed outbuilding of the late 18th century, with unusual elements of formality, reflecting the occupancy of the L'Hermitage plantation by the French Vincendiere family and nearly 90 slaves.

The awards ceremony is scheduled for

November 14, 2008 at the U.S. Department of the Interior Museum in conjunction with a special exhibit on the 75th Anniversary of the Historic American Buildings Survey, initiated as a New Deal program.

This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the Charles E. Peterson Prize Competition, named in honor of the HABS founder. Peterson was a guest



speaker at Bucks in 1995 as a part of the first HABS workshop held by the BCCC Preservation Program that documented a dormitory designed by legendary architect Louis I. Kahn.

(See *Community Preservation* articles: "A Secret Garden" (Araby Domestic Yard) - Fall 2007, "Our Rich" (HABS program assistant) - Spring 2006, "Students Document NPS Outbuildings on the Araby/Thomas Farm" - Fall 2004, "Mt. Gilead AME Church... Documented by HABS Team" - Fall 2004, "Standing Silent Vigil" (Brawner Farmhouse)- Spring 2003, "HABS at Hampton Hill" - Fall 2001 and Spring 2002, "When We Win the Peterson Prize" - Fall 1999, "From Camp Hofnung to Slifer Log Cabin...HABS Workshops" - Spring 1997, "In the Realm of Kahn" (Camp Hofnung- Kahn)- Fall 1995.)

BCCC is totally deserving of the First Place Peterson Prize. The school teaches the best way to learn about a building is to become intimately knowledgeable about it. Charlie Peterson (after whom the award is named) said there is no better way to appreciate a building than to make careful drawings of it. Kathryn Auerbach gets students into the field through her measured drawings classes and teaches them to carefully measure and accurately draw what they see. This technique is being lost to "modern" computer drafting systems, but the best drawings always come from the hand and the heart. I hope BCCC continues with this program and invests in the future of historic buildings and the field of preservation.

Tom Vitanza, RA, AIA, NCARB
Senior Historic Architect
Historic Preservation Training Center
US National Park Service
Frederick, MD

Congratulatory fax sent by the National Park Service HP Training Center, for whom the Best Barn was documented.

Community Preservation

*The Newsletter of the Historic Preservation
Program at Bucks County Community College*

Bucks County Community College

275 Swamp Road • Newtown, PA 18940

News and Notes

DATES TO REMEMBER

The National Trust for Historic Preservation will hold its annual conference in Tulsa, OK this year from October 21 to October 25. The National Council for Preservation Education (NCPE) will also be meeting at the same time in Tulsa. Check the Trust's website at www.nthpconference.org for details of the program.

NOTES ON THE TYLER FORMAL GARDENS

• **RESTORATION CONTINUES** - If you have visited the formal gardens on campus this summer and fall, you will notice that the interior beds in the four rooms on the second terrace have been replanted with new perennials. A special thanks to the volunteers who did the planting and Gasper Nurseries and the Bucks County Community College Foundation for their generous support. Stop in to view the formal gardens and see how they grow.

• **FALL ACTIVITIES** - This fall semester, Russ Stover (horticulturist and HP Adjunct Instructor) is teaching HIST 216 - Historic Garden Preservation (3 credits). This study of historic gardens includes the study of plants, visiting area gardens and use of the Tyler Formal Gardens as a lab. One of the major projects is the replanting of the Iris beds on the second terrace.

• **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** - Thank you to all the volunteers who work to make this elegant garden sparkle. Many hands are needed to restore and maintain them throughout the year. Let's make this one acre garden look good for every visitor. If you like to work in gardens and appreciate fresh air, join our energetic volunteers in the fall, spring and summer as they keep the gardens in shape. All are welcome and hours can be arranged. Call 215-504-8500 x6007. See also our website at www.bucks.edu/tylergardens

• **SUPPORT THE GARDEN** - Don't forget our restoration projects need funding. "Friends of Stella Tyler" and the "Tyler Formal Gardens Endowment" always appreciate support. We are grateful to the local businesses and the BCCC Foundation for their continued interest and commitment.

• **UPCOMING GARDEN LECTURE** - The second annual "Tyler Garden and Landscape Lecture" will be given in April, 2009. For additional information about this exciting lecture series contact rosenbel@bucks.edu or call 215-504-8500 ext. 6007.

KUDOS TO MAY HP GRADUATES

We wish all the best to Cheryl Bonavolonta, Karen Boyd, John Kriebel, Laura May, Danielle McAvoy, Barbara Ricker-Nieves, Doreen Ruffe, and Nathan Rutko.

ARBOR GIFT TO BUCKS

The Historic Preservation Program at BCCC was recently involved in another special project: nine Japanese maple trees were donated and transplanted to the Newtown campus. The donation came from Helene Huffer, a resident of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. These historic trees originated from the Raraflora Nursery in Feasterville, prior to its closing in the 1970s. While most of the cultivar names are unknown, these trees are rare and may be one of a kind. Two 16 foot diameter Acer palmatum dissectum trees were planted in Tyler Formal Gardens on the first terrace, between the Orangery and Tyler Hall. The Acer palmatum "Bonnie Bergman" cultivar was planted on the second terrace between the holly and lilac bushes. An Acer japonicum "Moon Tree" and an unidentified Japanese maple were planted outside the third terrace level, at the southern end of the gardens. In addition, four remaining dissectums were also located at various sites beyond the Tyler Garden walls. The dissectums can be recognized by their distinctive cut leaf shape.

We welcome these rare specimens to the campus and their return to a Bucks County home. Visit the gardens and see how these cultivars look as if they have always been here. A special thank you goes to Helene Huffer for her generosity and Gasper Nurseries for moving the trees. We are also grateful that the Bucks County Community College Foundation made this entire project possible.

BUCKS STUDENT COMPLETES GRAD SCHOOL

Congratulations to Amey Senape who graduated in May with an MA in history from Lehigh University. Her emphasis was public history. We wish her well in her work with Save Our Steel.

FACULTY RECOGNIZED

In the December 2007 issue of *Newtown News*, Russ Stover, Adjunct Instructor for our Historic Garden Preservation course, was given special recognition for his work in Newtown Township and the Clark Nature Center. The title of the article says it all, "Township Grateful to Part-Time Employee/Long-Time Volunteer." Russ richly deserves this kudos.