

ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
OF THE
VICTORIAN
SOCIETY
SUMMER SCHOOLS

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER 2.0

Volume 2 No. 3

May 2019



Since 1912, the cherry blossoms around the Tidal Basin in Washington, DC have been a harbinger of Spring and this year they welcome us to the Spring issue of news and notes on the Alumni Association of the Victorian Society Summer Schools.

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2019, please do so now! Your membership strengthens our organizations and helps us support the Summer Schools through our scholarship donations for students and other activities. Visit our website at vsaalumni.org for membership information.

Please see the flyer below for information about the special **\$100,000** challenge grant we received. Your generous support to help us meet this challenge will provide the Alumni Association with an endowment fund to support student scholarships and summer schools operations in the years ahead.

Please also see the flyer below with information on the Alumni Association's Annual Meeting and Dinner to be held on May 24, 2019 (6:45pm to 9:15pm) during the VSA's Spring Study Tour and Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA. **Note, reservations for the Alumni Association's Annual Meeting and Dinner must be received by May 15, 2019.**

In this issue, we are happy to report on several recently held recruitment parties. Thanks to all those who worked on the events to make them an excellent introduction for the 2019 Summer Schools. Also included here are some notes on recent alumni accomplishments and other items.

Please send any information on your pertinent activities to David Lamdin at dalamdin@aol.com Also, visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/vsaalumni1>



Alumni News



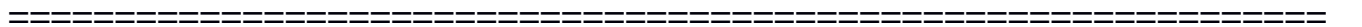
Victoria Young, Ph.D. (London 1994 and Newport 1995) was awarded by the American Institute of Architects Minnesota Chapter their Special Award in December 2018. The award seeks to encourage, stimulate and recognize exceptional contributions made by individuals and organizations that improve the quality of our physical environment.

Young was nominated for her illustrious 20-year career as an architectural educator, author and promoter of Minnesota architecture to a broad and diverse group of students and other members of the public. The jury emphasized Young’s stalwart support of architecture within her field of art history, and her ability to translate diverse ideas and make them relevant for a broad group of audiences as extremely important to advancing understanding of the profession.

Dr. Young is a professor of Modern Architectural History and Chair of the Art History Department at the University of St. Thomas.

Written by **Laura Macaluso** (London, 2017 and Newport, 1999) and lavishly illustrated with one-of-a-kind watercolor portraits, *Colonial Klaus in Thomas Jefferson’s House* tells the tale of a daring dachshund named Klaus who travels back in time to meet the people of Poplar Forest, offering a unique look at what makes our shared local history so special. Additional information is available at:

<https://mascotbooks.com/mascot-marketplace/buy-books/childrens/picture-books/colonial-claus/?fbclid=IwAR3tXGp6V2Msrg0LizKoyRcljAwbpTadRKHRCsI96yS1VrXWfKLo2aoJm1Q>



Call for Papers

The Fall 2019 issue of *Nineteenth Century*, published by the Victorian Society in America, will feature monuments, sculpture, and bas reliefs, along with their creators and commissioning agents. Co-editors **Warren Ashworth** (Newport 2009 and Chicago 2015) and **Laura A. Macaluso** (Newport 1999 and London 2017) are looking for essays addressing the contemporary context for American sculpture: including legacy, controversy, and recent scholarship.

If you, your colleagues and/or students have ideas for full-length essays (2,000-5,000 words with 6-12 illustrations) please be in touch by emailing the editors at NineteenthCenturyMagazine@gmail.com. **Deadline for essays is July 15, 2019.**



Victorian Society in America Alumni Event, San Francisco, February 1, 2019

Despite a rainy night, 22 people attended the West Coast's only preview of the 2019 VSA Summer Schools event. Although the West Coast has no organized VSA alumni chapter, each year an event is given by Bay Area individuals who have benefitted from the VSA's unique schools. The event is given to illustrate what potential students might experience if attending the schools; additionally, it provides a forum for alums to connect or reconnect with others.

The exuberant 1887 Victorian-era residence of **Stephen Haigh** (Newport 2007) and **Shelley Meagher** was the venue for this year's student recruitment event. Known as the Lambert-Bahrs House, the Stick-Eastlake style house at 940 Page Street was built by William Hinkel. Hinkel built and sold all seven of these houses in a row, and they make a fascinating study in what is known as remuddling. Only one has its original façade; each of the other five present a different notion of improvement. Haigh and Meagher purchased the house in 1983 and have been rehabilitating it ever since. They have installed new systems, recreated the façade, and redecorated the interior with period furnishings; some rooms have working gas lighting. VSA member and advocate **Paul Duchscherer** (Newport 1991) designed the redecoration of the public rooms and parlors, the latter with Bradbury and Bradbury Neo-Grec papers.



Stephen Haigh organized the alum-sponsored event with assistance from **Hank Dunlop** (Boston 1978, London 1981, Newport 1988 and 2005), **Ian Berke** (Newport 1997) and **Christopher Pollock** (Newport 2004 and London 2010). Alumni showed or discussed highlights of each curriculum. VSA Board Member **Cindy Casey** (Newport 2014 and Chicago 2016) showed slides and discussed the newer Chicago School, which includes not only 19th century, but those important regional architectural contributions in the 20th century. **Adam Klafter** (London 2014 and Newport 2015) reviewed the myriad places visited in the London School as well as the Newport School while other alums discussed their experiences. *By Christopher Pollock*

Victorian Society in America Alumni Event, New York City , February 15, 2019

Oscar Wilde in North America

The New York City recruitment event, sponsored by the VSA and the Alumni Association, was held on Friday, February 15, at The New School's University Center at 63 Fifth Avenue. **Sarah Lichtman** (London 2001 and Newport 2005), Summer Schools (SS) Committee member and Director, MA in the History of Design and Curatorial Studies at Parsons The New School, welcomed the audience of about 50. **John Simonelli** (Newport 1996 and 2005, London 1999 and 2006, and Chicago 2015), SS Committee co-chair, introduced guest speakers **Prof. Richard Guy Wilson** (London 1976 and Newport 2005), Director of the Newport SS, and **Paul Miller**, Curator of the Preservation Society of Newport County, who discussed the beginnings of the Aesthetic Movement in America, about Oscar Wilde's visit in 1882.

Professor Wilson introduced the theme in his talk "Oscar Wilde's Valentine for America: 1882 Lecture Tour." He substituted a long-stemmed yellow rose for the sunflower which the "aesthetic apostle" always flourished in his public appearances across the U.S. and Canada. Wilde had been invited by Richard D'Oyley Carte to address audiences as yet unfamiliar with the new movement in personal fashion and home decor lampooned in Gilbert and Sullivan's opera "Patience," then on tour in America. Wilde came for three months and stayed for a year, appearing before wildly enthusiastic crowds in 100 cities, including Chicago (five lectures) and Newport (one). His topics were English Renaissance Art, the House Beautiful, and the Decorative Arts. He was highly critical of the strait-laced, corseted female, and said the best-dressed men in America were cowboys in chaps and ten-gallon hats. He chose velvet knee breeches and jackets for his own attire on stage and in publicity photographs. His lectures were widely covered by the press and his gospel of taste was disseminated across the country.



Paul Miller followed on this theme with “A Charming Experiment: Aesthetic Design in Newport,” a talk about the influence of the Aesthetic Movement and the Queen Anne style of Richard Norman Shaw on significant houses there, including the William Watts Sherman House and Ochre Court, as well as Newport Casino, which all pre-date Wilde’s visit. Vinland, built in 1882, has interior decorations by William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones.

John Simonelli then introduced **Hannah Winiker** (London 2018) and **Alexis Mucha** (London 2016 and Newport 2018), who presented illustrated talks about their Summer School experiences. Hannah detailed her personal highlights and concluded by saying that the friendships she made will be lifelong benefits of the course. Alexis outlined the daily itineraries and described with great enthusiasm the breathless pace that makes it possible to see so much.



The program concluded with a reception in the lobby of the auditorium, where guests and speakers mingled. Some of Sarah’s Parsons students were present, including several Summer School applicants.

The presentations and reception were hosted by the VSA and the Alumni Association. Many thanks are due to Sarah Lichtman for arranging use of the Bob and Sheila Hoerle Auditorium at The New School.

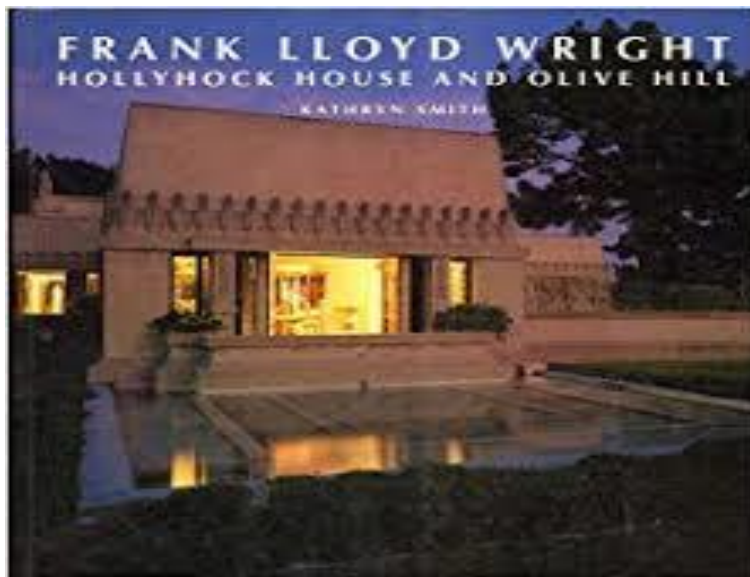




Manya Fox (Newport 2017)

Attending the Victorian Society in America's Newport Summer School was an immersive experience. As I reflect on my time in Rhode Island, I return to one word – exposure.

As the Visitor Services Manager at Hollyhock House, a Frank Lloyd Wright historic house museum in Los Angeles, California, it was valuable for me to see how house museums in Newport are run. The sheer volume of houses we visited was an extremely educational experience for me, along with seeing each site's varied approach to touring and adaptive reuse.



Visiting an “older” and vastly different part of the country, I was able to more completely put Hollyhock House into a historical context. Lead by Richard Guy Wilson, the authority on Newport's architectural history and a wealth of knowledge, he expertly guided our group through the city. The access we were granted gave us a unique opportunity to visit many privately-owned historic homes, further deepening my understanding of the historical significance of the region. This exposure, combined with daily lectures by Wilson and other guest lecturers, gave the complete picture of Newport's influential architectural history.



I also learned a great deal from my classmates. The opportunity to be exposed to Newport's rich history with docents, curators, historians, and museum professionals from across the country and have the chance to discuss what we were learning as we were learning it was very beneficial. My classmate's different points of view added to the experience, and I learned just as much from talking with them as I did from being exposed to the sites we visited.

The Victorian Society in America as an organization was present during the course as well. VSA representatives hosted receptions, gave lectures and accompanied us on many of our tours. The organization and its members were warm and welcoming, and I feel privileged to be a member of VSA's Alumni Association.

With this exposure my perspective has changed. I now can approach my job with additional knowledge and experience. I have expanded my professional network and feel more connected to the historic museum community. None of this would have been possible without the generous support from the Victorian Society in America. I am grateful and look forward to being an active member of VSA.

Moira Gallagher

Newport 2017

The Victorian Society of America's Newport Summer School is one of the most unique and rewarding professional development opportunities available to lovers of American architecture, art, and material culture. For ten days, I embarked on a visual feast of stunning buildings, interiors, and objects that were either created on or found their way to Aquidneck Island.

Like many on the trip, I had not previously visited Newport, or the surround environs, and I was delighted and enthralled by all it had to offer. The itinerary developed by Dr. Richard Guy Wilson laid out a curriculum that traced Newport from its prosperous eighteenth-century origins, through its resurgence amidst the resplendent Gilded Age, and lastly to its present state as a vibrant community and leader in the field of historic preservation.

Dr. Wilson's tours and lectures, along with the expertise shared by the guest lecturers and site hosts, brought deeper insights and understanding to each site and topic. Each day, our cohort of students, academics, museum professionals, and enthusiasts visited a rich variety of domestic, commercial, and ecclesiastical sites that highlighted Newport's history.

For me, the Samuel Tilton House was one of the trip's many highlights. Designed by McKim, Mead, and White and built in 1880-2, the house is a privately-owned residence in the heart of Newport. When we visited, the house was largely unfurnished, which allowed us to experience the interior architecture in a whole new manner. I found the glasswork and the decorative details on the fireplaces, built-in cabinets, and other woodwork to be inspiring.



Samuel Tilton House
1881-82, Sunnyside Pl, street facade;
architect: McKim Mead and White



Samuel Tilton House
1881-82, Sunnyside Pl, living room;
architect: McKim Mead and White



I work as a Research Assistant in The American Wing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Samuel Tilton House dates to the same moment as the Metcalf Stairhall, the surviving entryway from a Buffalo, NY residence also designed by McKim, Mead, and White that is installed in The American Wing. It was revolutionary to experience a similar space in situ—with its inglenook, staircase, and off-shooting living chambers. It allowed

me to truly grasp the lighting and sensation of movement that McKim, Mead, and White intended in the Metcalf residence, which has been mediated by the museum experience. Throughout the week we visited a number of other McKim, Mead, and White structures, which allowed me to see the consistency of their style, but also to identify divergences in their work that may reflect client input or the hand of the individual designers and architects at their firm.

While Newport has an endless selection of sites to see, I also enjoyed our excursions out of town. Our day trip to North Easton, Massachusetts was of particular interest. We had the privilege of experiencing H. H. Richardson's iconic Ames Gate Lodge and the two monumental opalescent, leaded-glass windows by the artist John La Farge at the nearby Unity Church. Additionally, we toured a number of the other significant structures that the Ames family commissioned to support and bolster the community of workmen that staffed their shovel manufactory. I thought this outing provided a great balance to many of the other narratives we heard throughout the program. While we often focus on the patron and the architect, this day highlighted the working-class communities that supported the commercial enterprises owned by these great industrialists.



In addition to the opportunity to visit an extraordinary number of public and private sites, I thought one of the program's greatest assets was its diverse group of participants. I found that the range of professional experiences and specialized interests offered by each individual contributed to a highly collegial environment and offered fresh insights that would have been absent amidst a more homogenous group. I believe this diversity was



the direct result of the VSA's generous scholarship offerings and I am most grateful to have been a recipient of such funding.

While books, photographs, and digital resources allow for individuals to access and explore far off places, nothing will ever replace the experience of visiting these sites in person. Many of the participants acknowledged that such a program would not have been possible to assemble or afford on our own.

The expertise of Dr. Wilson, the professionalism of the program administrator, the helpfulness of the student aides, and the quality relationships that the VSA has cultivated over the years with the owners, caretakers, and museums organizations in Newport made for an unforgettable experience.

I feel that my increased my visual vocabulary and enriched knowledge of Newport has already proven invaluable in my work and I look forward to recalling these experiences in my future curatorial endeavors.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND DONORS

The officers and board members of the Alumni Association give special thanks to those Alumni members at the Supporter level and above. Your generosity is appreciated!

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Heritage Society

We are extremely grateful to the following members who so thoughtfully and generously include the Alumni Association in their wills or trusts. Their gifts will make a lasting difference to deserving scholars for years to come.

The Bob and Carole Chapman Fund very generously awarded a grant of \$10,000 to the Alumni Association Chapter in memory of Carole Chapman.

Paul Duchscherer very thoughtfully made provisions in his trust for a \$10,000 bequest to the Alumni Association as well as designating the Alumni Association as the beneficiary of all future royalties from his many books and other publications.

Darrell Lemke & Maryellen Trautman

Including the Alumni Association in your estate plans is an effortless way to support the Schools. If you are interested in and require further details about including the Alumni Association in your will or trust, please contact President David Lamdin at (703) 243-2350 or at dalamdin@aol.com.

\$100,000 Buttrick Challenge Grant

The following individuals have generously made donations to help the Alumni Association meet the challenge grant from Jim Buttrick to create an Endowment Fund to support the VSA Summer Schools.

Donors

Cindy Casey
David Lamdin
Laura Macaluso
Laura Parrish
Charles Robertson
Candace Volz
Susan Wagg

Pledges

Warren Ashworth
Sara Durkacs

Contributor lists July 1, 2018 through May 1, 2019. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of our contributor lists, but errors may occur. Please contact Membership Secretary Sara Durkacs at (718) 499-8254 or at membership@vsaalumni.org with any errors or omissions.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION of the VICTORIAN SOCIETY SUMMER SCHOOLS

\$100,000 BUTTRICK CHALLENGE GRANT

The Alumni Association is very excited to announce the creation of an Endowment Fund to support the VSA Summer Schools. We received a very generous matching grant from Jim Buttrick (Newport 1999, London 2000). Jim will donate a total of up to \$100,000 to match dollar-for-dollar donations large or small to the Endowment Fund. These donations must be “new” money received before December 31, 2020. The Endowment Funds will be separately invested for the long term with a small percentage of the value of the fund used each year as needed for summer schools scholarships and operations.

As a supporter of the VSA, you understand the importance that the Schools have played in the lives of those fortunate enough to attend. Students consistently report on how the schools have enriched their lives with the connections made, the first-rate lecturers, and a broadened appreciation of the built environment. The Endowment Fund will provide an ongoing income stream to make the Summer Schools stronger and be our legacy for future Victorians. Please consider a generous contribution.

For additional information contact: David Lamdin 703-243-2350

dalamdin@aol.com



Prof. Richard Guy Wilson with students at the Newport Summer School

Please complete and return the form below to help meet the Buttrick Challenge

I, _____, am including a check for \$_____ payable to the Alumni Association for the Buttrick Challenge Grant. **AND/OR**

I, _____, pledge \$_____ to the Alumni Association for the Buttrick Challenge Grant to be paid before December 31, 2020. Send to: Alumni Association, VSA1636 Sansom St. Philadelphia, PA 19103

As a 501 c (3) organizations, donations to the Alumni Association are deductible as provided by law.

Alumni Association of the Victorian Society Summer Schools



WHAT: 2019 Annual Meeting and Dinner

WHEN: May 24, 2019 (6:45pm to 9:15pm)

WHERE: 3502 Hamilton St, Philadelphia, PA

COST: \$75 for AA members; \$85 for guests

RESERVATIONS: **Advance dinner reservations and commitments are required.** We need to know how many will be attending to properly prepare for the dinner. We also need to know if you have any food allergies. Also, will you require transportation to the dinner or can you take someone with you in your car to the dinner. Payable at the door or by check payable to: **Alumni Association** and sent by May 10th to:

David Lamdin

1515 N Kirkwood Rd

Arlington, VA 22201-5233

Further Info: David Lamdin 703-243-2350 dalamdin@aol.com