The Master of Preservation Studies class, along with a few guests, traveled to Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula this past March for eight days for this year’s International Field Study course. The group was fortunate enough to be led through many sites for most of the trip by archaeologist Tomás Gallareta, a renowned expert on ancient Mayan sites and culture (who just so happens to be graduating from Tulane with his Ph.D. in anthropology this May!). The students, with Director John Stubbs and assistant Danielle Del Sol, ’11, toured Maya sites large and small, from the UNESCO World Heritage sites Chichen Itza and Uxmal to lesser-known (but no less magnificent) sites such as Labna, Ek-Balam and Ake. The group made a special point of visiting the astonishingly ‘modern’-looking Nunnery at Uxmal (c. 900 AD) that former TSA Dean John Herndon Thompson and Tulane architecture students documented for its reconstruction at the Chicago World’s Fair of 1933.

The group also spent significant time studying the influence of the arrival of Spanish colonizers to the peninsula, visiting haciendas such as San Antonio Millet and Mani, and touring significant colonial architectural sites in the cities of Valladolid and Merida. Much was learned in this beautiful part of the world, where Tulane University has had roots for decades. We were proud to carry on this tradition of exploration, and hope to visit again soon.
Dear MPS Alumni and Friends,

My, what a difference a year makes in further developing a graduate program at one of the country’s finest institutions of higher learning! May 2013 marks the end of two semesters of both solid educational and programmatic achievement in the MPS program. Enrichments to the faculty including Dorothy Krotzer teaching Preservation Technology, Daniel Hammer teaching American Architectural History, Robert Cangelosi teaching New Orleans Architecture, and Gene Cizek and Cynthia Stewart returning to teach Studio I: Building Preservation did much to increase the content and excitement of the program’s offerings. Regional projects selected by the faculty for research and preservation attention were as interesting and exciting as one could hope for. They included documenting raised tombs in the Masonic Cemetery, producing an illustrated interpretative guide for Faubourg Tremé, technical conservation analyses of the famous Madame John’s Legacy historic house in the French Quarter and the First African Baptist church in Central City, documentation and preservation planning for eight block fronts in the Vieux Carré and a two-block area in Faubourg Tremé, and historical research and façade restoration plans for the important Dew Drop Lounge music heritage site in Central City. Field trips ranged from trips to the St. Joe Brickworks in Slidell and a long weekend studying early French colonial architecture in Natchitoches, Louisiana to attendance of the national conference of the Association for Preservation Technology International in Charleston. This year’s program goal of learning by observing ‘best practices’ via the Field Studies Abroad course was brilliantly capped by a study tour of cultural heritage protection examples, found in both ancient Maya sites and bustling cities shaped 500 years ago by the Spanish, in the Mexican state of Yucatan.

Another important development was the addition of Danielle Del Sol (MPS ’11) to the program’s administration and adjunct faculty who assisted with a wide range of initiatives throughout the year. Among the many tasks that Danielle has masterfully tackled were: development the program’s new whole class and faculty Thesis and Practicum review process, organization of the annual meeting of the MPS Board of Advisors, production of program brochures, and development of content about the MPS program for TSA’s recently overhauled Website. Danielle’s vital role as managing editor of Preservation in Print for the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans ensures her finger is on the pulse of both local and national preservation trends.

MPS’s long standing commitment to working with communities and stakeholders in the field was greatly bolstered this past year with the School’s addition of Professor Maurice Cox, Associate Dean for Community Engagement and Director of the Tulane City Center. It has been a pleasure to work with this energetic and insightful man and we are honored and hugely helped by his, Dean Kenneth Schwartz’s, and Associate Dean for Academics Wendy Redfield’s continuing commitment to effectively involving the MPS faculty and students in the School’s overall mission.

With 23 MPS graduates walking in Tulane’s graduation ceremony this May and an impressive number of applications to next year’s program, it is safe to say the program and its effects are expanding significantly, and with this reconstituted base even better things are yet to come!

Enjoy the summer all, and let’s please stay in touch.

Yours,

John H. Stubbs
Favrot Senior Professor of Preservation Practice
Director, Master of Preservation Studies
Before this semester, three Tulane School of Architecture students may not have known much about Oak Grove, La., or its Fiske Theatre, but they are becoming experts on both. They are driving nearly five hours to the far northeastern corner of Louisiana for a historic research project on the Fiske, one of the state’s small, mid-century theaters.

Located in Oak Grove, La., the Fiske Theatre is the subject of a research project by Tulane architecture and preservation students.

The theater was established in 1928 and is owned by the West Carroll Chamber of Commerce. Still an active theater, movies are shown at the Fiske on Thursdays through Sundays.

The students are researching and documenting the mid-century Streamline Moderne-era architecture of the Fiske, which was designed by the late B. W. Stevens, who also designed the now-demolished Joy-Strand Theatre on Baronne Street in New Orleans.

They will measure the existing building, complete a stylistic analysis, compile historical documents and compare the Fiske to other regional theaters. The students also will reproduce the blueprints of the theatre, which had been lost, and prepare documentation to assist in its listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as the Fiske is now eligible.

Architect Andrew Liles, an adjunct faculty member in the Tulane School of Architecture, and professor John H. Stubbs, director of the school’s master of preservation studies program, are overseeing the work, having received a Dean’s Fund for Excellence grant from the school.

Liles said the team is thrilled to study and participate in the rebirth “of such an outstanding piece of American architecture,” which was a cutting-edge design of its time.

On the Fiske’s Facebook page, the team members are asking residents of the Oak Grove area to send in their favorite memories of the theater and their thoughts about the Fiske’s importance to the community. Responses are being emailed to Gabrielle Begue (MPS ‘12) by April 30.
CONGRATS TO THE MOST RECENT MPS GRADUATES

A number of graduates and soon-to-be-graduates are walking this May’s graduation ceremony.

Congratulations to them all!


LAST NOTES

- The Beauregard-Keyes House and Garden Museum, located at 1113 Chartres in the French Quarter, is looking for volunteer docents to work hourly shifts Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. If you are interested please contact House Director Ella Camburnbeck, ‘11, by email at bkeyeshouse@gmail.com or phone: 504.523.7257.

- Spread the word about MPS! We are in the midst of a campaign and would like to share new promotional materials with any alums who will help us reach potential new preservationists.

ALUMNI NEWS

- Sara Orton, ’00, has been preparing Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation on a five-span, steel railroad bridge in rural Oregon. The swing span bridge was built by the American Bridge Company of New York in 1906.

- MaryNell Nolan-Wheatley, ’12, recently hired by CH2MHILL as an architectural historian, assisted with the research and written history of the railroad (see above) and the region. To produce the HAER measured drawings, the field team used laser scanner and total station technology, which is just beginning to be accepted by the National Park Service. Hard copies of the documentation will be provided to the Oregon Historical Society and the University of Oregon in Eugene.

- Ian Crawford, ’12, director of the Jemison Mansion in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, is also now teaching interior design at the University of Alabama.

- Erika Marks, ‘03, has a third novel, “The Guest House,” debuting this June. Published by NAL/Penguin, the work “was especially dear to my preservation heart as its setting is that of an historic shingle-style cottage on Cape Cod undergoing renovations,” she said.

- Louisiana Landmarks Society is staffed by numerous MPS graduates. Casey Stuart and Heather Knight are Co-Chairs of Education; Stuart is also Membership Chair. James Wade, ’12, is Newsletter Editor and Chair of the Samuel Wilson, Jr. Publications Committee.

- Karen Armagost, ’12, has accepted a seasonal position with the National Park Service. She is an Exhibits Specialist (Architectural Conservator) at the Pecos National Historical Park in New Mexico. She will be working on the stabilization of an adobe 18th-century Spanish mission church.

- Mary Lane Carleton, ’10, wrote the National Register nomination for the St. Bernard Market (Circle Food Store), listed on the National Register August 15, 2012, as a historic consultant for John C. Williams Architects. She also executed the State and Federal Historic Tax Credits for St. Bernard Market, currently under construction, and wrote the nomination for The Plaza Tower, listed on the National Register with exceptional significance, less than 50 years old, on January 30, 2013.

- Beth Jacob, ’12, and Gabrielle Begue, ’12, have partnered to form Clio Associates LLC, a New Orleans-based preservation consulting firm specializing in research, documentation, planning, and design. Their website is coming soon at clioassociates.com.


- Ella Camburnbeck, ‘12, was recently named House Director of New Orleans’ Beauregard-Keyes House and Garden Museum.

KEEP YOUR FELLOW TULANE PRESERVATION ALUMNI IN THE LOOP!

To submit your news items, job or internship announcements or just to keep in touch, email Danielle Del Sol (‘11) at danielle.delsol@gmail.com. Please help us build the Tulane Preservation Alumni Group into an active, helpful resource for all graduates in Preservation Studies!