Historic Preservation 2009 and Beyond

The upcoming year is an ambitious one for historic preservation at the University of Virginia. Projects are under way in each part of the Academical Village. The restoration of the Rotunda, a multiyear project expected to conclude in 2014, has officially begun. The exterior of Pavilion X is being restored and Pavilion II has been renovated. Research is under way on a hotel, and plans for renovating another pavilion are in progress. From the alleys to the gardens, the metaculous and state-of-the-art care given to each feature is made possible by the generosity of donors, who are recognized in this newsletter.

The Rotunda: Starting at the Top

The Rotunda has been called the “physical, intellectual, and emotional center of the institution.” Given the enormity of the Rotunda restoration and the building’s importance in the life of the University, the task is being done in stages to allow it to remain open. The effort begins with the building’s leaky dome roof. “No catastrophic leaks have formed, but it’s only a matter of time before we have a serious problem,” said Brian Hogg, the University’s senior historic preservation planner.

Shutters, once a prominent feature of the north wing of the Rotunda, and which have been missing for many years, will be installed. Next will be repairs to masonry and investigation and repairs of the leaks in the north staircase, which allow water to seep into the building. The thirty-year-old elevator needs repair or replacement, and the interior ceiling will be replaced with plaster, bringing the Dome Room closer to Thomas Jefferson’s original intention. The goal for the Rotunda restoration campaign is $15 million in private funds by the University’s bicentennial in 2019 to supplement state funding for the project.

Pavilions X and II: Homes for Faculty

Located where the terraced Lawn makes its steepest drop, Pavilion X was among the last of the pavilions to be constructed. Jefferson found inspiration for the building’s elaborate Doric cornice in the Theatre of Marcellus in Rome. Restoration work on Pavilion X will be completed before the end of 2009. The restoration was paid for with funds from the Jefferson Buildings and Grounds Endowment, established in 1984 with a gift from the William R. Kenan, Jr., Charitable Trust. The work included re-creating the original parapet, replacing the roof railings around the student rooms, repairing the columns and restoring their original unpainted stucco finish, painting the ornamental woodwork a stone color, and painting the shutters their original grassy green. Carl F. Zeithaml, dean of the McIntire School of Commerce, lives in Pavilion X. Pavilion II was one of five East Lawn pavilions designed by Jefferson in early 1819. The original plan for Pavilion II was unusual even for Jefferson. It was the only pavilion to have its entrance open into a small vestibule and is one of only four pavilions with marble capitals. Having had its last renovation in the 1950s, the interior of Pavilion II has just been fully updated with features such as central air conditioning in place of window units for both efficiency and enhancement of the building’s exterior appearance. The renovations also included new plumbing and electrical systems, a new kitchen, and new sprinklers and fire safety equipment. The Pavilion II interior renovation was funded by the Jefferson Buildings and Grounds Endowment Fund and the Mary L. F. Wiley Endowment Fund.

On the exterior, the white marble capitals on the building’s columns were cleaned using lasers. Over time, the Carrara marble Ionic capitals accumulated atmospheric pollutants such as coal smoke and were severely discolored. Cleaning restored their original bright white color. Meredith Woo, dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, is living in Pavilion II.

In part because the work on these two pavilions was done with U.Va. tradespeople rather than outside contractors, the restoration and renovation of Pavilions II and X came in substantially under budget. The Pavilion II restoration alone cost approximately $1.5 million less than expected. According to Mr. Hogg, this surplus will fund the upcoming renovation of Pavilion IX, the next pavilion to receive a comprehensive restoration, beginning in April of 2010. A historic structure report for Pavilion IX is under way, funded by the Jefferson’s Circle annual fund.

The Rotunda restoration will begin with the roof. The painted metal finish of the metal roof’s rust-stained, a condition especially pronounced on the north elevation. As a result of the Rotunda’s settling over the years, the sandstone water table, shown above, slants inward, causing water to seep into the building.

Continued, page 2

“Watching the University’s craftsmen restore Pavilion II during the past year was fascinating. Their work is amazing, and the finished product is a delightful place to live and a privilege to share with the many faculty, students, and alumni who are guests.”

— Meredith Woo, Dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Buckner W. Clay Professor, and resident of Pavilion II
Hotels E and F: Early Dining Halls

Originally designed by Jefferson to provide dining for students and faculty, the Academical Village’s hotels will also receive needed attention this year. Work will soon begin on improving the barrier-free access to Hotel E. A design to recreate the long-missing rear porch in a way that accommodates an access ramp from an adjacent parking area has been approved and will be implemented shortly. The HSR on Hotel F has begun, at a cost of $125,000. Among the discoveries early in the research is a builder’s tool left in the attic above the adjacent arcade, marked as the property of James Dinsmore, one of Jefferson’s trusted tradesmen.

Conservation Center to Focus on Object-based Research and Preservation

A crucial component of Thomas Jefferson’s vision for the Academical Village was a system of walkways and paths that connected residences, classrooms, dining halls, and the Rotunda. In an early explanation of the plan for the University’s Grounds, he wrote that the hotels have backyards and gardens “that are separated by cross streets of communication,” creating a circulation system that binds the parts into a whole.

Today, the University plans to renovate these “cross streets of communication,” or alleys as they are now called, which serve as important pedestrian passages into the Academical Village’s historic core and also provide access for service and utility vehicles. The recent renovation of Poe Alley provides a model for improvements to the other seven alleys, including the highly visible and frequently accessed Rotunda Alley.

The alleys serve as important pedestrian passages into the Academical Village’s historic core and also provide access for service and utility vehicles.

Rehabilitating the Lawn’s Cross Streets of Communication

A four-way partnership among the University of Virginia Art Museum, the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection, the University Library, and the Office of the Architect will create a permanent home for the care and preservation of University treasures.

The Millmont Conservation Center will meet existing needs for conservation and preservation while also creating new research and teaching opportunities. The Parking and Transportation Building on Millmont Street will be renovated to house the center.

The facility will house climate-controlled laboratories for conserving library volumes as well as maps, photographs, and historical documents. The center will also provide space to care for the University’s growing art collection; here paintings and sculptures will be cleaned and repaired.

Finally, the center will provide the staging ground for the preservation of the University’s historic architectural treasures.

As conservators care for the University’s most precious art objects and documents, faculty will instruct students in preservation and curatorship. Faculty will instruct students in preservation and curatorship.

The total cost for renovating the building is $7 million, with the four partners sharing fundraising efforts. In addition, the library is seeking $1.75 million to meet a challenge grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to endow preservation activities. According to University Librarian Karin Wittenborg, the collaborative nature of the center is unprecedented among peer institutions and will make U.Va. a model for conservation efforts at other schools.

The center will provide space to care for the University’s growing art collection, historical documents, and architectural treasures. Faculty will instruct students in preservation and curatorship.

Rehabilitating the Lawn’s Cross Streets of Communication

The rehabilitated Poe Alley, above, will serve as a model for the restoration of the Rotunda Alley. Below, an alley before renovation.
For more than a decade, Jefferson’s Circle has recognized donors who generously support historic preservation efforts on an annual basis. Beginning this fiscal year (July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009), we have established levels of membership named for the Palladian classical order of columns to recognize the generosity of donors to historic preservation at the University of Virginia.

**TUSCAN LEVEL | $1,000–$2,499**
- Elizabeth Ann Carr, M.D., and Christopher Acheson
- Lucile M. Ackerly and Benjamin C. Ackerly
- Barbara Maxwell Adatto and Kenneth N. Adatto, M.D.
- Jennifer L. G. Barnes and Jason T. Barnes
- Mary B. Bars and Lucien L. Bass III
- Christian F. Binning
- Kimberly Kay Booher and Edward S. Booher, Jr.
- George G. Boteler
- Adrienne B. Brook and Julian M. Brook
- Mauricce G. Burnett
- Patricia Jones Burnette and Kevin Burnette
- DePre C. Cochran and G. Moffett Cochran
- The Honorable George M. Cochran and Lee S. Cochran
- Mr. Brockenbrough, the first proctor of the University, managed all of the contracts for construction of the Pavilion X.

A broken saw handle, shown below, stamped “A. S. Brockenbrough,” was found in the attic of Pavilion X. The gauge was found in the attic space above the dormitory rooms adjacent to Hotel F.

**IONIC LEVEL | $5,000–$24,999**
- Peter G. Claymore
- Jane E. Covington and James E. Covington, Jr.
- Howard Family Trust
- Beverley G. King
- Robert Scott Millay and Roger F. Millay
- Blaine T. Phillips

**CORINTHIAN LEVEL | $25,000 AND MORE**
- Michael L. Ainslie
- Claire Liedtke Alexander
- Suzanne P. Allan
- Sara S. Allen and Ashby B. Allen

Among the discoveries in the early research on Hotel F is a large straight tool, stamped with the mark “J. Dinsmore,” indicating it was the property of James Dinsmore, one of Jefferson’s trusted tradesmen. The bevel of the tool consists of two pieces of wood, hinged at the end with a screw. When unfolded, the gauge would have been used to mark angles and transfer them from one piece of wood to another. It is unusually large and was almost certainly made to help frame the serrated roofs. The gauge was found in the attic space above the dormitory rooms adjacent to Hotel F.

**Doric Level | $2,500–$4,999**
- Carl O. Atkins, Jr.
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**Lost Treasures**

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- Guy A. Fritts

**Continued, page 4**
Tending to the Gardens

It’s a long way from a Wyoming cattle ranch to the manicured gardens in the University’s Academic Village. That’s the trek Laura Bucholz, her daughter, Bessie (College ’11); and son, John, make as classes begin each fall.

As director of the Gretchen Swanson Family Foundation, Mrs. Bucholz left something behind on her trip to the Grounds in 2008—a gift of $50,000 to the University’s Historic Garden Fund. Then in 2009 the foundation funded repair of the Pavilion X garden’s south wall with a gift of $100,000.

The Swanson Foundation was founded in 1959 by its namesake, Gretchen Swanson Velde, Mrs. Bucholz’s mother-in-law. In addition to Mrs. Bucholz, other family members serve on the foundation’s board: her brother-in-law, Rick Bucholz; her sister, Claire Liehde Alexander (College ’80); and her children, Bessie and John. The foundation has focused its philanthropy on Wyoming, giving primarily to community centers, museums, and social services for disaster relief.

“I truly wouldn’t be doing any of this if not for my late mother-in-law, Gretchen Swanson Velde, who established the foundation many years ago,” said Mrs. Bucholz. “With my kids going to school in Virginia (John attends Woodberry Forest), we wanted to give there. Claire suggested funding the gardens and landscapes at U.Va.”

Both sisters understand the importance of preserving gardens and landscapes, and Bessie Bucholz is an art history major with a minor in landscape architecture. As a University guide, she understands the historical importance of Jefferson’s Academical Village and passes that history along to visitors.

“The University is a public institution and the legislature is cutting funding,” Mrs. Bucholz said. “By supporting historic preservation, we can help retain the uniqueness of the Grounds.”

In memory of Paul L. Meaders, Jr.
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Eleanor M. Montague and Percy Montague III
Marsha H. Moritz and John J. Moritz
Christina B. Moyer and Dennis K. Moyer
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Anonymous

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GIFTS OF $1,000 AND MORE to support capital and endowment funds for the University’s historic buildings and grounds in 2008-09

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For more stories about donors and historic preservation visit our Web site at www.campaign.virginia.edu/historicpreservation.

For information on how you can help preserve the University’s historic architecture and landscapes, call Elizabeth Piper at 434-924-7221 or e-mail her at epiper@virginia.edu.

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