



NATIONAL TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION®

Fall/Winter 2007

DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

http://www.nationaltrust.org/scholarships/diversity_scholarship.html

Volume 1, Number 2

Highlights:

- Spotlight on National Trust Historic Site, Acoma Sky City (*below*) and its director, Theresa Pasqual (*shown right*) – 2007 Diversity Scholar
- How I Became a Preservationist – Interview with Brent Leggs, 2003 Diversity Scholar and current program assistant for the National Trust Northeast Office (*page 3*)



Photo by Faron Tortalita

Here we are at the close of another year for the Diversity Scholarship Program (DSP). I am proud to report that the inaugural issue (Spring/Summer 2007) of this newsletter was a ringing success. Many of you sent hosannas and well wishes, along with thanks for reconnecting you with the DSP. We want to maintain that momentum and hear about the successes that you have experienced during the course of this year. The DSP can only grow with your participation.

Within this issue of the Alumni Newsletter, we re-cap some of the highlights of the 2007 National Preservation Conference and showcase one of the newest sites within the National Trust family, Acoma Sky City in New Mexico. Our featured alumni this time around are Theresa Pasqual of New Mexico and Brent Leggs of Massachusetts. This issue also covers the basics of the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program and seeks your thoughts about de-gentrification.

We hope that you find this latest installment of the DSP Alumni Newsletter exciting and edifying. In our next issue, we will provide you with details of the 2008 National Preservation Conference. As always, we encourage you to share your thoughts with us.

Happy Holidays!

Jeffrey A. Harris
Director for Diversity, National Trust

Spotlight on Acoma Sky City and Theresa Pasqual

On September 11, 2006, Acoma Sky City became the 28th site to join to the National Trust Collection of Historic Sites.

Rising 367 feet above a New Mexican valley floor, an impressive sandstone mesa, known as Acoma Pueblo or Acoma Sky City, is the oldest continually inhabited community in the United States. This Native American community is believed to have been occupied since 1150 A.D. Theresa Pasqual (DSP '07) is proud to be the first female director of the Acoma Historic Preservation Office (AHPO), which protects the cultural resources of Acoma Pueblo.



Sky City

Photo by Doug Merriam

for Historic Preservation and the Pueblo of Acoma leadership and community. In her capacity as AHPO director, Theresa is involved with the restoration efforts of the San Esteban del Rey Mission—the 1629 mission that sits atop the old village. She also supports the efforts to preserve the Keres language—one of Acoma Pueblo's greatest cultural preservation challenges. Theresa notes that development pressures threaten their cultural resources, and that "without [language and culture] we lose the keys to our beliefs, our past, our present and our future." To help reduce this threat, AHPO offers community members opportunities to re-learn traditional building methods, encourages students to pursue preservation-related degrees, and has expanded its efforts in cultural documentation and research.

Acoma Sky City offers visitors a look into an exquisite but modest village. Yet as Theresa notes, the beauty of the Pueblo is not without its flaws. "If we are going to ask our community to change its apathetic attitude toward the preservation of our culture and language, then we must serve as

(continued on page 3)

The Conference Corner

The 2007 Diversity Scholars pose for the “class picture” during the Twin Cities Conference.

DSP Fact: 58 community activists and students were sent to the Preservation Conference this year—a 17 percent increase over last year’s attendance. Of the 58 scholars, only 16 (or 28 percent) were men. C’mon fellas!



Photo by Tony Nelson Photography

What You Experienced or What You Missed!

The Twin Cities Preservation Conference was a resounding success, and not just due to the absolutely gorgeous 80 degree weather we experienced for the majority of the conference. The diverse affinity and education sessions were thought-provoking and informative. For nearly a week, more than 2,000 attendees scurried about the RiverCentre (Saint Paul’s Convention Center), while carrying eco-friendly tote bags (donated by the Target Corporation) and thumbing through the conference map (also known as the “Schedule-At-A-Glance”). “There’s just so much to do,” one seasoned conference attendee mentioned as she “cut class” and poked her head into a different concurrent education session.



St. Paul’s Landmark Center
Photo by Sakinah Linder

Among the notable sessions this year was “Overcoming Preservation Challenges.” At this education session, participants were greeted with Guamanian leis, while speakers held a laid-back session on preservation issues in Asian and Pacific Islander communities. At the opening plenary, radio personality, author and actor, Garrison Keillor, amused the audience with “A Prairie Home Companion”-style talk about Minnesota life, quirks and all. The “R” Factor, the closing party band, paid tribute to Prince—who (unfortunately) was not present.

The Diversity Scholarship Program hosted a number of events. For the first time, scholars were able to meet one another during a brief private orientation. Following the orientation, at the DSP Opening Session, Dr. Gail Dubrow, vice provost and dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Minnesota, gave the keynote address. She focused on the preservation and interpretation of places significant to the history of women, ethnic communities of color, and the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. Dr. Dubrow used slides to show the range of her work in the preservation of these diverse groups’ historic sites.

Center photos: Opening Plenary at the Ordway Performing Arts Center and Gail Dubrow during the DSP Opening Session.
Photos by Daphne Figuerero Gerig & Tony Nelson Photography.

She noted how working in diverse communities can be both affirming (when working within one’s particular community) and enriching (when working outside of one’s particular community). Dr. Dubrow reminded the audience that diversity represents us all, and that there is a role that all preservationists can play when we are willing to share our knowledge with communities we may not know very well. That message was well received by the 2007 scholars, and it was the subject of many subsequent discussions.



At the end of the week, Dr. Dubrow and nearly 40 others (quadruple the number of 2006 attendees) attended the second annual API (Asian and Pacific Islander) Caucus Dinner at the Downtowner Woodfire Grill in Saint Paul, which was likely the most diverse of all the conference affinity sessions in

Saint Paul. The entertainment provided at the dinner—musicians from Guam and a Hawaiian hula dancer—was unmatched by any other session. DSP staff would like to thank and congratulate the organizers, specifically Daphne Kwok (DSP ’06), Lani Ma’a Lapilio (National Trust advisor for Hawaii), Michael Makio, AIA and Joe Quinata (both of Guam Preservation Trust), and Bill Watanabe (DSP ’04).

Last but not least, the DSP held its first annual alumni reunion during the Twin Cities Conference. Twenty folks gathered at the Liffey Irish Pub in Saint Paul to reconnect, relax and enjoy great food and drinks. We hope to see more of you next year for all of the activities (including the second annual DSP Alumni Reunion) at the 2008 Preservation Conference, which will be held October 21 to 25 in Tulsa, Okla. For more information about the 2008 National Preservation Conference, please contact the National Trust at 202-588-6100 or visit www.nthpconference.org.



Lani Lapilio hula dances at API Caucus Dinner
Photo by Sakinah Linder

How I Became a Preservationist

Brent Leggs (DSP '03) has been the program assistant at the National Trust's Northeast Office in Boston since August 2005. He is also a former National Trust Mildred Colodny Scholar. This scholarship program provides financial aid to graduate students in the preservation field, an internship with the National Trust, and financial assistance to attend the National Preservation Conference. (The goal of the Colodny Scholarship Program to help increase the diversity of people pursuing degrees in historic preservation.)



Photo by Letonia Jones

An Interview with Brent Leggs

DSP: How did you become a preservationist?

BL: My path to preservation wasn't connected to a particular site or affiliated with a preservation story, but rather a strong interest in real estate, a juxtaposition of the old and new. I entered the University of Kentucky's Preservation Program with the goal of working in real estate development. After working on several projects related to African American preservation, I became interested in the preservation of my own ethnic architectural history.

DSP: What is the value of diversifying the preservation movement?

BL: Diversity is synonymous with interesting. As the field of preservation becomes more diverse, the places that will continue to be preserved will represent the evolution of the American story, including both painful and resilient histories. Diversity brings value to every facet of American life, including preservation.

DSP: How did you become familiar with the National Trust?

BL: While in graduate school, I applied for the Mildred Colodny Scholarship and was selected to receive this prestigious award in my second year. I never knew winning this award would provide the opportunity to get so well

connected with the Trust family nor lead to an eventual position with the Northeast Office.

DSP: What did you think of your experience as a Diversity Scholar?

BL: My experience as a Diversity Scholar was wonderful. It provided me with opportunities to meet preservationists like myself (who were just entering the preservation world), while also allowing me to meet seasoned professionals who provided some perspective on issues and topics that broadened my interest in historic preservation. The education sessions, attending the African American Awards Dinner, and seeing so many diverse people involved in preservation made my experiences valuable.

DSP: Final thoughts?

BL: Preservation is a field that takes commitment and dedication to do the work that we do. It is truly altruistic in every sense of the word. The sacrifice is to live and work in a capitalistic economy while making a nonprofit salary, yet the rewards for preserving one's history is priceless. For me, as an African American, knowing that my ethnic architectural history exists for all present and future generations to see validates that African Americans have contributed not only to their communities, but also to the fabric of our nation.

Spotlight on Acoma Sky City and Theresa Pasqual

(continued from page 1)

examples to them first and foremost. With assistance from the National Trust, I hope to serve as an example to other communities as to what is possible when everyone makes a commitment to preservation. For me it is only the beginning, and I am looking forward to the years ahead!"

Theresa believes that it is "the sense of time" that makes Acoma Pueblo so unique. She explains: "I can stand atop the village and look to the horizon in all four directions and see our sacred mountains. I can draw water from the cisterns, dance in the plaza, and live in the village, which my ancestors did hundreds of years ago and which my family's children will do long after I am gone. Time is constant here and people can experience that when they come to Acoma. Making that connection to those who once lived here and continue to this day is a very powerful experience! I am proud of that."

For more information, please visit www.skycity.com or contact Theresa Pasqual at Acoma Sky City (800) 747-0181 or Acoma Historic Preservation Office (505) 552-5170.



Diversity Scholarship Program Alumni Newsletter

Jeffrey A. Harris, *Director for Diversity*
Sakinah Linder, *Diversity Scholarship Program Coordinator*

The goal of the **Diversity Scholarship Program** is to increase the diversity of participants at the annual National Preservation Conference and in the preservation movement. The Scholarship covers registration, hotel and/or travel for approximately 60 community leaders from diverse social, economic, racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds to attend the Conference.

Important 2008 DSP Dates are listed on page 4.

The National Trust defines diversity as inclusive, embracing people of all races, creeds, genders, ages, sexual orientations, religions, physical characteristics and disabilities, veteran status, and economic or social backgrounds. For the Diversity Scholarship Program, it also encompasses historic places, communities, and geographical areas that represent the full range of unique characteristics, experiences, and cultures found in the U.S.



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IMPORTANT DATES

December 2007

4-5: Native American Cultural Property Law, Seattle, WA (703) 765-0100

January 2008

3-6: American Historical Assoc. Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (202) 544-2422

4: America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places List Nominations due (202) 588-6141
11: Natl Preservation Conference Education Session Proposals due (202) 588-6095

February 2008

18: President Lincoln's Cottage opens to the public (202) 829-0436

March 2008

12-15: Traditional Bldg Conf, Boston, MA (800) 982-6247

28-31: Organization of American Historians, New York, NY (812) 855-7311

30-Apr. 2: Main Street Conference, Phila., PA (202) 588-6219

April 2008

10-13: National Council on Public History, Louisville, KY (317) 274-2716

May 2008

31: DSP Application Postmark Deadline (202) 588-6027

June 2008

1: National Preservation Conference Volunteer Application due (800) 944-6847

We want to hear from you!

Please send us your thoughts on this publication, article ideas, or address/email updates via email or snail mail. Thanks.

scholarships@nthp.org

—OR—

DSP-NTHP

1785 Massachusetts Ave NW

Washington, DC 20036

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Gentrification v. De-Gentrification?

Imagine this de-gentrification scenario: A city known for its theaters, museums, gourmet restaurants, grand rowhouses, and luxury condos is surrounded by developable, untouched land—land that is now being fashioned into a “New Town.” Speculators begin to look more closely at this neighboring opportunity instead of the existing city—the grand old city that has higher property taxes and expensive real estate. As businesses move to the “New Town,” vacant properties multiply, crime increases, and city officials decide to create enclaves of low-income housing to fill the gaps in the city’s former entertainment districts. The gourmet restaurants close, because the clientele is gone. Luxury condos are thrown into a bargain bin. The hotels shift from five to two-star chains. This city has been effectively de-gentrified.

- With this scenario in mind, should we consider the de-gentrification (in a limited sense) of a gentrified neighborhood in order to bring about a more culturally and economically diverse community? How would that be done?
- What controls would have to be administered in order to prevent the wholesale deterioration of a city in the first place?

Think about the role that preservationists play when it comes to gentrification. We are often caught in the middle of the debate on gentrification. Don Rypkema suggests in his book, *The Economics of Preservation*, that we should perhaps do away with the term *gentrification*, because it conjures up “too many connotations [that] no longer apply,” and that “perhaps ‘economic integration’ is a better description of the role that preservation can play.” “‘Economic’ means renovation and increased property values...and ‘integration’ means one economic level is not displaced by another.”

Proper planning is vital to a city’s development and sustainability. It is important to remember what keeps a city alive and well, and to give it a check-up every now and again, before growth pressures overtake. Perhaps gentrification and de-gentrification in moderation aren’t bad at all. What are your thoughts on this issue? *Please send your responses to scholarships@nthp.org or DSP-NTHP, 1785 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC 20036. Some of your responses will be published in our next installment of the Diversity Scholarship Program Alumni Newsletter.*

Federal Historic Tax Credits Explained

What is it? The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives program is a 20 percent tax credit applied to an investor’s federal income tax after completing an approved rehabilitation on an income-producing historic building. Only investors may claim the credit. The credit is not available for properties used exclusively as the owner’s private residence. This credit is not a refund. It simply mitigates the federal tax owed.

What qualifies? Eligible properties must be listed in the National Register for Historic Places (or contribute to a national, state or local historic district), and be rehabilitated for commercial, industrial, agricultural, or rental residential purposes. The building must remain income-producing for five years.

What’s the process?

1. Contact your state historic preservation office.
2. Document (describe and photograph) the property’s existing architectural features.
3. Explain planned scope of work for the National Park Service’s review. (Rehab must follow the Secretary of the Interior’s guidelines for Rehabilitating a Historic Property.)
4. Complete rehab as described to the National Park Service, once scope of work is approved.
5. Take “after” pictures and submit the request for final certification of completed work once work has been finished. The investor has up to ten years to use the credit. If within that ten year period, there is ever an unused portion of the credit, it rolls over to the next tax year. Nonprofit organizations can use the tax credit program as a marketing tool for investors—basically selling the credit to those who can claim it. For more information please visit www.ntcicfunds.com/basics/ or www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/tax/ or call (202) 588-6064.

Help Wanted: The California Council for the Humanities (San Francisco), a nonprofit organization devoted to strengthening communities in California, is seeking an Executive Director. The Executive Director develops and implements fundraising and finance development strategies, and ensures that solid planning and budgeting systems are in place. Candidates must be appreciative of California’s cultural diversity, and be sensitive to and supportive of the needs of the diverse constituencies of the Council. *This posting and others can be found at **ForumOnline**. <http://forum.nationaltrust.org/> Join today!*

“The greater the obstacle,
the more glory in overcoming it.”
—Molière