

## PRESERVATION MATTERS

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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### Three honored with PACA Lifetime Achievement Awards

At its April 9 Annual Meeting, the PACA Board of Directors announced recipients of the organization's 2011 Heritage Awards. These awards, established in 1985 to recognize outstanding contributions to historic preservation efforts in east-central Illinois, include special Lifetime Heritage Achievement Awards to individuals who have made distinguished contributions over the long term to preserve a special aspect of our heritage or to advance the cause of historic preservation in our community. This year's awardees were Steve Hesselschwerdt, David Monk, and Bob Swisher. (See page 2 for information on residential, institutional, and advocacy Heritage Awards.)

#### Steve Hesselschwerdt

Steve, a longtime supporter of PACA and resident of White Heath, graduated from the University of Illinois in 1971 with a degree in Architecture. Upon graduating he worked for the School of Architecture for 6 years, followed by 5 years in the private sector and 3 years at Chanute Air Force Base. In 1988 he returned to the university where he was in charge of Space Management for more than 20 years working for Facility Planning and Management. Steve played a key role in the massive classroom and campus improvement initiative that began in 1994. That program started with a budget of \$2 million a year and grew to \$4.4 million a year by 2010. Some of the major expansions Steve saw

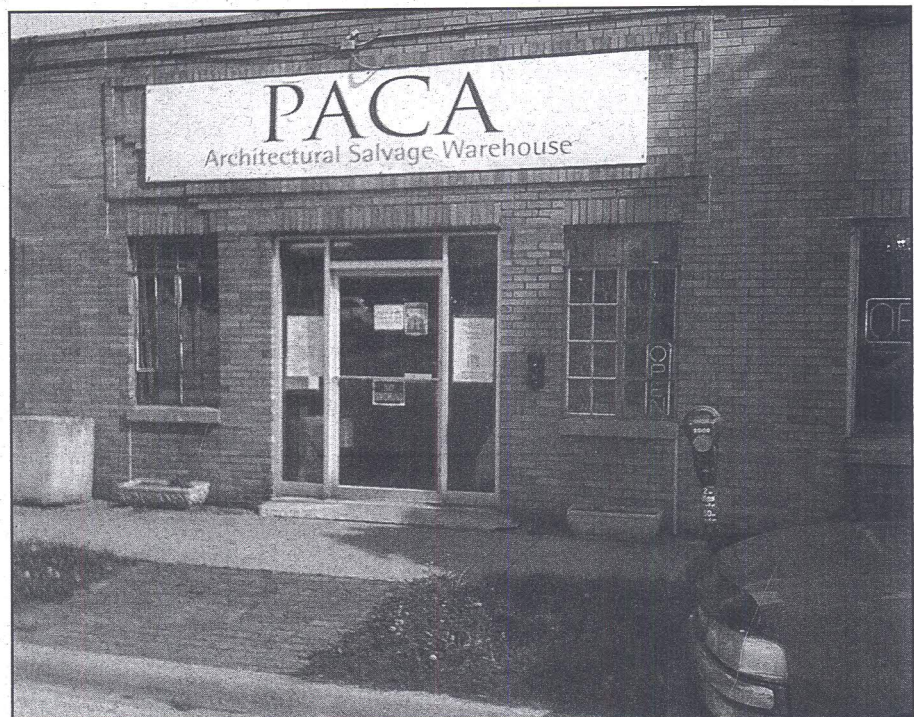
during his tenure included the major developments on the Engineering Campus, the renovation of Harker Hall, construction of the Beckman Institute, new construction between Goodwin and Lincoln, and improvements to buildings on the Quad. He retired as the Associate Director for Space Management in 2010.

During his work on numerous campus improvement projects Steve

worked to secure permission for PACA to salvage reusable architectural elements that would otherwise have ended up in a landfill. It is estimated that Steve aided PACA in well over 100 salvage projects of all sizes.

PACA takes pleasure in saluting Steve for his continuous support of our activities and the major part he has

*Continued on page 4*



*Can you see us now?* A question often phoned in to the PACA warehouse is "Er, where are you located?" The old, predictable answer was, "We're at 44 E. Washington in Champaign!" But the exciting new answer is, "We're in the vintage brick warehouse with the conspicuous new sign over the facade—at 44 E. Washington in Champaign!" The PACA Board approved purchase and installation of the new sign earlier this year so everyone will now know for sure when they're finally here!



## 2011 Residential, Institutional, and Advocacy Heritage Awards

### Residential Heritage Awards

*Jeff and Grace Harshbarger*  
1484 East 325 North Road, Atwood, IL

This is one of the oldest houses in Piatt County (rural Atwood), dating back to 1848. Bought by the Harshbargers in 1999, the original homestead had been burned and been vandalized. In 2004 the roof was replaced, and in spring of 2006 additions to the north and west sides were built. Work continues on the interior based on original designs, and landscaping continues using plants indigenous to the area.

*James and Lorene Bier*  
3206 South First, Champaign, IL

The house was designed by UI architect John Replinger in 1965 as a traditional Japanese residential (Sukiya) style home. The home underwent a total exterior restoration with help of John's son, also an architect. New siding was designed to enhance the traditional look. Most of the original trim was saved, but some was replaced with clear cedar where needed. All nails, caulking, and joints were hidden to allow natural weathering to enhance the overall appearance.

*Scott Santeler and Corrie Proksa*  
1007 Douglas, Urbana, IL

This 1929 Tudor Revival house was in very poor condition when the new owners bought it in 2009. A new roof features steel shingles that enhance the Tudor look versus asphalt shingles. New energy-efficient windows were selected to match the historic style. The 1950s two story addition in the rear was replaced with one that enhances the elements of Tudor style. (Project awards also were presented to New Prairie Construction and Kevin Fahey, Architect.)

*Chad Ebbert*  
701 West Park, Champaign IL

Built in the early 1900s, this house has undergone two previous renovations. The current renovation is renewing

the entire house from top to bottom. Nonhistoric or deteriorated siding, window frame details, fascia, and other elements have been recreated in their original historic style. Knob and tube wiring has been fully modernized, trusses have been reinforced, and the attic has been heavily insulated. Many additional enhancements to the structure, floor plan, and fixtures have been made, and original interior woodwork has been restored wherever feasible.

*Tamara Chaplin*  
209 West California, Urbana IL

Since 2008, the exterior has had extensive carpentry work, including the repair of soffits, rebuilding of both the back and front porches, and new siding on about one third of the house. The chimney was lined, tuckpointed, and capped. All remaining historic windows were thoroughly renovated. Widespread improvements have been made inside and out, including new insulation, the removal of nonhistoric drop ceilings and addition of a brick path made with 800 pavers purchased from PACA.

### Institutional Heritage Awards

*University YMCA (Mike Doyle, Dir.)*  
1001 South Wright St., Champaign, IL

A major addition to the NW side of this 70-year-old building was recently completed, designed and executed to blend well with the historic fabric. The project was paid for by capital campaign donors, including Phil and Nina Martin who donated money for the elevator, and state capital funds secured with the help of Illinois Sen. Mike Frerichs and Rep. Naomi Jakobbsen.

### Preservation Advocacy Heritage Awards

*Ford County Preservation Coalition*  
Rosemary Kaye and Susan Satterlee

This coalition of Ford County Preservation groups combined resources and efforts to save the

138-year-old Sheriff's Residence and Jail, which they nominated for the Ten Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois list presented by Landmarks Illinois. These buildings were repurchased from a private owner by the county in 2007. The buildings may be reused, but demolition has not been ruled out. The sheriff's residence is a two-story brick Italianate house with decorative corbels under the eaves and arched lintels, and has a large wrap-around porch added in the 1900s. The original attached jail is 2,200 sq ft of stone masonry that could hold 35-40 inmates at one time, and once briefly "hosted" Sly Stone, the 1970s funk musician.

*Homer Opera House*  
Matt & Suzanne Garrison (owners)  
101 North Main St., Homer, IL

The Homer Opera House, built in 1902, is crowned by the second-floor performance space. The building retains many original features, including its decorative pressed metal ceiling, a painted canvas theatrical screen, crown molding, wood flooring, balcony, and ticket booth. The immediate plan is to restore the first floor to its original characteristics, including reinstalling windows to their original placement. The long-term plans are to put a restaurant on the first floor remodel the opera space for not-for-profit activities, including community productions

*Sesquicentennial Neighborhood Assoc.*  
*Historic Marker Committee (Champaign)*

This historic signage project has been supported in part by PACA and receipts from a house tour conducted in 2002. The committee members are Michael Markstahler, Barbara Oehlschlaeger-Garvey, Barbara Horne, and Kevin Brumback. Two new markers were erected this past year in the area of Maple and Vine Streets, and five more signs are in the design stage. The group's long-term goal is to install 30 signs that interpret the history of the neighborhood to visitors.

*Editor's note: this article incorporates information previously published in the Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette*





**Armstrong youth lend some muscle.** A swarm of Armstrong High School freshmen and sophomores, members of their local Future Farmers of America chapter, donated several hours of enjoyable backbreaking labor to PACA's ongoing street paver reclamation project on April 22. From the huge, dirty heap of 9 lb pavers shown above, the FFA—under the guidance of three faculty sponsors—made 30 pallets of cleaned, neatly stacked bricks like those shown to the right. The gentlemen were fueled by 16 pizzas and four coolers full of drinks, which disappeared in about 5 minutes. Resale of pavers like these has provided tens of thousands of dollars in revenue to PACA over the years.



## PACA Board of Directors selects two new members

Two new board members were announced at the April 9 PACA Annual Meeting. Both have a long association with PACA and considerable experience in the salvage, restoration, and building-related trades.

### Darrel Foste

Darrel has been highly active in PACA as our Salvage Coordinator, investigating leads on new salvage opportunities and arranging the logistics and staffing of salvage activities. A resident of Urbana since 1979, Darrel has been involved in salvage since 1980. He works as a renovator, giving new life to houses that he rents or sells. Darrel is a 1981 graduate of the University of Illinois and has a degree in Agriculture.

### Adrienne Bauer

Adrienne, a child of preservationist parents, operates a small Urbana housepainting business called Anabru. Her interest often begins beyond "the third layer of wallpaper," and her accomplishments include work on a partial restoration and refurbishment of a 1920s house. Adrienne is interested in the physical work of preservation, but also the education and community engagement missions of PACA.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

# PACA

Box 2575, Station A CHAMPAIGN, IL 61825

### MEMBERSHIP STATUS

☐ New ☐ Renewal

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

☐ Adult \$15  
☐ Student \$10  
☐ Senior Citizen \$10  
☐ Family \$20  
☐ Corporate \$75

☐ I wish to include an additional contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Please make your check payable to PACA. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



## Lifetime achievement awards

(continued from page 1)

played in making the PACA architectural warehouse a highly successful community resource for sustainable renovation projects.

### David Monk

David, who recently celebrated his 50th year in Champaign-Urbana, has long been well known to listeners of WEFT 90.1 as The Prairie Monk. His personal mission has been to preserve and restore increasingly rare tracts of native prairie ecology in the area. David was raised in Australia, where his mother was an artist and his father was a school teacher. The family lived in a remote, primitive rural area on a small farm with a half-dozen cows and chickens (plus David's pet *joey*). His family also operated a small carpentry shop.

David attended a public agricultural boarding school in Australia for 5

years on partial scholarship, in return for which he milked cows. He then attended Sydney University and studied Agricultural Science. He went on to teach subjects as diverse as drama and chemistry. In 1961 he arrived in Illinois to seek an assistantship at the University of Illinois in order to explore the land and culture, and to continue his educational and artistic endeavors. In 1983, David founded Heartland Pathways, a non-profit organization dedicated to restoration of community landscapes. Since its founding, the organization has acquired more than 33 square miles of prairie in the Champaign-Urbana area.

Although his work has focused intensively on the conservation of prairie landscapes, much of David's work has involved the preservation and restoration of the area's historic built infrastructure, including buildings, bridges, railroads, and cemeteries. With this award, PACA warmly thanks David for his untiring work to help Champaign-Urbana hold onto

precious natural and human-built gems of our historic heritage.

### Bob Swisher

Bob is well known as the chief "PACA Rat" and author of the long-running collectibles column in *The News-Gazette*. He became Salvage Director in 1983 and led PACA's initiative to establish a permanent warehouse, negotiating a very low-cost building lease from then-owner John Solon plus an arrangement to use Bush Brothers electric service. In addition to staffing the warehouse every Saturday with Executive Director Karen Kummer and a few volunteers, Bob established PACA's UI salvage contacts and arranged for the Beckman site salvage—the major source of our lucrative street paver reclamantion program—among many other large projects. A man-about-town, Bob knows half the people in town well enough to ask them for favors on behalf of PACA. Many agree that Betty, Bob's "secret weapon" (i.e., wife) deserves a piece of this award.

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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