

2025 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY REPORT

By Alumni Association President David Lamdin (Newport '15, London '17, and Chicago '18)

With a new Board of Directors starting January 1, 2025 for a term of three years, the Board organized itself, established committees to consider several issues such as future Study Tours, worked with new board members who will be in charge of Membership and the Newsletter, and approved a donation of \$30,000 for 2025 scholarships. This included \$5,000 from the Alumni Endowment Fund and \$25,000 from our General Fund.

The Board approved the appointment of **Sergei Troubetzkoy** (Newport '90) as the Alumni Study Tour Director. Sergei conducted two VSA Annual Meetings, one VSA conference, and a VSA study program that all received glowing reviews, and all made money. He led tours for over 14 years for the Smithsonian Resident Associates. Sergei and the Study Tours Committee surveyed our membership for a possible location for a 2026 Study Tour with direction to consider Canada and Eastern Europe to try to keep costs down and get the number of tour participants up.

The Board approved for submission to VSA our \$100 Annual Chapter Dues as well as our Financial Report for 2024, our 2024 Activity Report, a list of our Officers, a list of our Membership, and our bank statements.

The Board approved a budget for 2025. The Alumni Association provided support for a

recruitment event in New York City featuring Professor **Richard Guy Wilson** (London '76) and three alumni of the summer schools. The Alumni Association supported a reception hosted by the UK Victorian Society for the 2025 London Summer school students and alumni in the area. On behalf of the Alumni Association, **Pauline Metcalf** (London '80, Newport '05) hosted a reception at her summer home, Philmoney, for the 2025 Newport Summer School class and alumni in the area.

Because Alumni Board members come from across the country, the Board held a Zoom meeting to introduce the new and returning Board members to each other. At that meeting, the Board approved November 12, 2025 as the date of the Alumni Annual Membership Meeting to be held together with the VSA Annual Membership meeting on Zoom.

The Board also gave careful consideration of a request for the Alumni Association to change its name. After careful consideration including the input from long-time members who are not board members, the Alumni Board concluded that no change in our name was wise at this time. The Alumni Board decided to try to improve our identity, purpose, and function within the VSA by trying to communicate better our organizational structure. Obviously, many are confused by the current structure, and we

agree with the VSA that efforts must be made to better explain the Alumni's structure, purpose, and function.

The Board recognizes the existential threats associated with our small membership numbers. We are trying to reduce membership renewal costs in 2025 for the 2026 membership year by using a more aggressive, online renewal process; and we are making a special effort to try to retain the students from the summer schools that have been held since the pandemic.

We published a special edition of the Alumni Newsletter in honor of Professor **Richard Guy Wilson's** 43 years of leadership of the Newport, Boston, and Philadelphia Summer Schools. This Special Edition Newsletter was distributed to about 2,400 people on the VSA's mailing list, many of whom have expressed their deep appreciation for all that Richard has done for them.

We held our Annual Membership Meeting on Zoom on November 12, 2025, following the VSA Annual Meeting. At least 20 alumni members attended the meeting. Excellent reports were delivered by Board Members and others covering issues about our newsletter, finances, membership, study tours, social media, and Alumni Association activities in 2025.

With the assistance of our Financial Advisor, eCIO, we were finally able to establish a cash management account with Schwab, which will enable us to earn interest on most of the money in our General Fund. We will keep our Wells Fargo account for the time being as it is a convenient way for us to deposit donations.

In Alumni Newsletter No. 68 (December 2025), we provided information on how individuals may be able to receive the tax advantages of contributing stock directly to the Alumni Association using eCIO, our Endowment Fund Financial Advisor.

Many thanks to our Board Members and Committee Chairs who have contributed many hours of their time in producing our newsletter, working on membership maintenance and renewal issues, working on our website, continuing our close and successful relationship with the VSA, monitoring our finances, planning future trips, posting on social media, website development, etc. Without these volunteer efforts, the Alumni Association would cease to exist.

And a special thanks to the members of the Alumni Association for their faithful support of our mission to support the VSA in its educational mission and to provide scholarship funds for students attending the summer schools.

VSA ALUMNI ASSOC Main & Endowment Fund Acts Inc/Exp 12/31/2025				
	Main	Endowment	Pitts	TOTAL
Balance 1/1/2025	102,722.51	247,072.37		349,795
2025 INCOME				
Membership Dues	10,667.00			
Scholarship Funds	21,612.40			
Dividends and Interest	0.00	7,704.43		
Transfer from Endowment to Main for Scholarships	5,000.00			
Change in Value of Investments		22,455.23		
12/31/2025 TOTAL INCOME	37,279.40	30,159.66		67,439
2025 EXPENSES				
Brokerage Fees		1,844.59		
Membership solicitation	416.97			
Gnosis Membership Software	1,139.00			
Website Maintenance	430.32			
Donations: VSA Annual Chapter Dues	100.00			
Bank Charges	337.45			
Summer school Recruitment Event (NYC)	871.25			
Summer Schools Scholarships	30,000.00			
Miscellaneous Tripod/clicker 68.57;	68.47			
Trf to Main from Endowment for scholarships		5,000.00		
12/31/2025 TOTAL EXPENSES	33,363.46	6,844.59	0.00	40,208
12/31/2025 NET INCOME (LOSS)	3,915.94	23,315.07	0.00	27,231
ACCOUNT BALANCE 12/31/2025	106,638.45	270,387.44	0.00	377,026
(BOTH BANK BALANCES)				
End of 2012				35,273
End of 2013			20,507.00	39,250
End of 2014			38,352.00	58,952
End of year 2015				42,481
End of year 2016	18,809.60		42,364.00	61,174
End of year 2017	33,090.14		17,364.00	50,454
End of year 2018	49,691.97		30,340.00	80,032
End of year 2019	108,791.00		12,910.00	121,701
End of year 2020	152,189.00		46,580.00	198,769
End of year 2021 (Main & Endowment)	288,528.17		45,330.00	333,858
End of year 2022	49,772.00	188,845.00	38,444.00	277,061
End of year 2023	45,188.00	222,748.00	55,740.00	323,676
End of year 2024	102,722.51	247,072.37		349,795
End of year 2025	106,638.45	270,387.44		377,026
Tangible assets laptop and software Purchased 1/25/2018 for \$459 plus tax and shipping charges is now in the possession of James Russiello.				
Tripod and slide clicker purchased in 2025 for \$68.57 now with James Russiello.				
703-243-2350 home				
571-332-4220 Cell				
dalamdin@gmail.com				
*NOTE: At the beginning of 2024, the Pittsburgh account balance was transferred to the Main Account. The Pitts account is closed.				

IMPORTANT NOTICE

We have been informed that a scam email that claims to be from the president of the VSA Alumni Association is being sent. The email asks the recipient to fill in for the president on a financial issue while he is out of town. The email also claims that another Board member was unreachable. It appears in the Inbox as David Lamdin, but the email is from president34221@gmail.com.

This is a scam email! Please **do not open it** and do not respond to it. Please mark the email as a scam, if possible, and delete it immediately. We are sorry for the inconvenience.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hotel Florence in the Town of Pullman to be Redeveloped

For the last several years, each Chicago Summer School class has spent the better part of a day in the Town of Pullman, hosted by Bill Tyle, Executive Director of Glessner House and Pullman resident. Many students have often wished they could tour the Hotel Florence, one of the historic buildings in the company town George Pullman developed for the workers of his railcar factory. A tour of the Hotel Florence may soon be possible due to a recently announced public-private partnership to restore and redevelop the historic Hotel Florence, two other significant buildings, and the grounds within the Pullman National Historic Park on the south side of Chicago.

The following public notice includes information about the [redevelopment project](#). Many thanks to **Diane Dillon**, Director of the Chicago Summer School, and **John Waters** (Newport '07, London '13 and '22), for providing the notice.

Pullman's Hotel Florence to be Redeveloped

On February 24, Illinois Gov. J. B. Pritzker announced a \$100 million revitalization project for the Hotel Florence at 11111 S. Forrestville Avenue, a centerpiece of George Pullman's Town of Pullman. The hotel, named for Pullman's beloved daughter Florence, was completed in 1881 and expanded with an annex in 1914. The Historic Pullman Foundation bought the hotel in 1975 and offered a popular brunch that brought people from around the city, as a way to raise funds to maintain the building. It was subsequently sold to the State in 1991, and has been closed since 2000, except for occasional tours.



George Glessner took the above image of the Hotel Florence in the late 1880s.

The revitalization project is funded in part by \$21 million from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, which issued a request for solicitation last year, seeking a development team to lead the public-private partnership. The selected team includes the Chicago-based development group Celadon Partners, the architectural firm of Farr Associates, and the arts organization Art of Culture.

Plans call for the transformation of the 1881 hotel into a boutique hotel with restaurants, a rehabilitation of the 1914 annex, and a concert hall in a former factory building across the street. Construction is set to begin in March 2027, with a completion date in late 2028.

President Barack Obama designated the Pullman Historic District as the Pullman National Monument in 2015. Managed by the National Park Service, it was redesignated as the Pullman National Historical Park in 2022.

VSA Spring StudyTour in Quebec City

The VSA is holding its Spring StudyTour in **Quebec City, Canada** from **May 20–23, 2026**. As the first city on the continent to have been named a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Quebec's fortification walls, historic buildings, and narrow, winding streets provide an old-world atmosphere that makes it unlike any other city in North America. The study tour will include guided tours on foot and by coach, an opening reception with introductory speaker, group dinners, and even some free time. See the [TOUR BROCHURE](#) for complete tour details with registration and hotel information.

The headquarters for the StudyTour will be the Hotel Champlain Vieux Quebec, where VSA has reserved a block of rooms at a discounted group rate. **Please use this link to make [HOTEL RESERVATIONS](#)**. Getting the discounted rate is dependent on your booking through the link. Bookings made through third-party sites (like Booking.com, Expedia, etc.) will not be credited to the Victorian Society, and if we do not make our quota we will be penalized

NOTE: A VALID PASSPORT IS REQUIRED TO ENTER AND EXIT CANADA.

Registration is open! As this StudyTour is limited to 25 participants, we strongly recommend that all members who plan to attend register with the Society as soon as possible and make their hotel reservations prior to the **hotel cut-off date of April 20, 2026**. Registration can be made by mail with a check, or with credit card by phoning the office, (856) 216-8124, M–F 10–3 ET.



ALUMNI NEWS

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department Historian in Residence **Christopher Pollock** (former Alumni Association director, and alumnus of Newport '05 and London '11) helped put together the Commission Vault Museum, a mini exhibition space within the old 6-by-10-foot steel vault at San Francisco Recreation and Park Department headquarters in McLaren Lodge in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. The display covers the entire history of city parks through objects and photographs organized by decade, with a timeline extending from 1850 through 2025. Each decade is marked by a listing of the parks in the system at the end of that decade, with 14 by 1860 to 230 in 2025. Because of the small size of the vault, viewing the exhibit requires making an appointment by emailing recpark.commission@sfgov.org.

SEND IN YOUR NEWS!

We like to keep in touch with all our alumni and to share your news with fellow alumni. If you have news about your current position, academic studies, or research project; an upcoming publication, lecture, or organizational event; a recent award or recognition; or other related news items, please e-mail it to Lori Thursby, the Alumni Newsletter editor, at news@vsaalumni.org.

2025 VICTORIAN SOCIETY SUMMER SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT ESSAYS

So Much More Than the Chicago Fire! —Furkan Sarilican

I had the privilege of participating in the 2025 Victorian Society Chicago Summer School thanks to the Society's generous scholarship. As an emerging scholar in the field of nineteenth- and twentieth-century American architecture, Chicago had long been at the top of my list of cities to explore. Yet the realities of graduate life—time, finances, and competing responsibilities—had kept me from visiting. Of course, one can always travel as a tourist, but those experiences often remain on the surface. A true engagement with architecture and urban history requires structure, resources, and expertise. Attempting a self-guided scholarly tour of Chicago would have been daunting; the Victorian Society made it both possible and deeply rewarding.



Furkan Sarilican is a trained architect and second-year PhD student at Rutgers University, in the department of Art History.

What set this program apart was the combination of rigorous scholarship with thoughtful organization. The comfort of having a carefully curated itinerary, paired with a strong body of readings and supporting literature, created an experience that felt both comprehensive and intellectually stimulating. Each day was layered with meaning, from the sequence of sites to the depth of the lectures. The Victorian Society brought together an extraordinary group of scholars, architects,

preservationists, and cultural historians. These experts not only guided us through Chicago's iconic landmarks but also opened doors to places and perspectives rarely accessible to the general public. Behind-the-scenes tours, insider commentary, and illuminating discussions about politics, patronage, and preservation all made the city come alive.

The buildings we studied—ranging from the Monadnock Building to the Chicago Theater, from the Glasner House to Unity Temple, alongside several works by Frank Lloyd Wright—created a syllabus in stone. The week often felt like an intensive graduate seminar, condensed into a compact and exhilarating format. Chicago, of course, is central to the story of American architecture, but what I appreciated most was how the Summer School contextualized each building within broader narratives of urban growth, immigration, industry, and reform. These layers transformed architectural history into a living, breathing story, rather than a list of monuments.

Participating in this program also had a direct impact on my own scholarly trajectory. As a PhD student preparing for qualification exams, I am constantly thinking about how to shape reading lists and syllabi. This tour sharpened my focus. It allowed me to see firsthand the places I had previously only encountered in photographs and textbooks. Experiencing these sites in person clarified not only their architectural details but also their urban contexts. As a result, I have been able to refine my exam list and draw inspiration for a course I will be teaching this summer, in which Chicago will now feature prominently as a case study.

The program also gave me space to work on my own research. The readings and discussions sparked insights that helped me

finalize an article draft I had been developing. I now plan to submit this piece to the Victorian Society's journal *Nineteenth Century*—an opportunity I might never have envisioned before this summer. I also hope to organize a public lecture, in collaboration with the Society, as a way to give back some of what I gained from this experience.

Equally important were the personal connections. The Summer School gathered participants from across the United States (and beyond), with diverse backgrounds but a shared passion for architecture and preservation. Some were advanced scholars, others were early in their careers, and still others were professionals working in related fields. These conversations—on buses, over meals, and during walking tours—were as enriching as the formal lectures. I know that many of these relationships will endure, providing a network of colleagues and friends with whom I can exchange ideas, collaborate, and grow.

None of this would have been possible without the generous scholarship support of the Victorian Society. Graduate study is often a demanding, lonely, and precarious journey. The pressures of research, teaching, and funding can feel overwhelming. Receiving this scholarship not only alleviated a financial burden but also reminded me that I am part of a larger community. The process of applying, becoming a member, and then participating in the Summer School showed me that there is a place where my interests are valued, where I can share my research, and where I can learn from others.

Perhaps most importantly, the experience renewed my sense of belonging in the field. It is easy, as a student, to feel isolated in libraries and archives. But the Victorian Society fosters a space where knowledge is exchanged generously, where mentorship is

available, and where enthusiasm for the built environment is contagious. I left Chicago with not only new knowledge but also a renewed sense of purpose.

I am proud to now be part of this remarkable organization. I look forward to contributing to

the Victorian Society in every way possible—as a reader, a writer, a lecturer, and a collaborator. The 2025 Chicago Summer School was not just a week of study; it was a formative moment in my academic and professional journey. For that, I remain deeply grateful.

V&A London Summer School Essay
—Marta Piszczatowska

I would like to once again express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to take part in this year's edition of the London Summer School. It was an incredibly inspiring and valuable experience that will remain in my memory for a long time.



Marta Piszczatowska is a curator at the University of Warsaw Museum. Her research interests include: medical museology, medical museums in Great Britain, collections of the British royal family, and academic heritage.

Jo Banham's lectures on the Great Exhibition and the interiors of William Morris greatly deepened my understanding not only of Victorian aesthetics, but also of the broader cultural and social context of the period. The lecturer's extensive knowledge and passion were a true source of motivation for further exploration of the subject—for instance, by searching for exhibition catalogues and objects that were sent to the 19th-century Exhibition from the territories of present-day Poland.

Further visits to sites such as Kelmscott House, Kelmscott Manor, the Emery Walker House, Wightwick Manor, and the Linley Sambourne House provided me with a strong foundation for continued exploration of the life and work of William Morris. Each of these houses offered a unique insight into daily life, aesthetics, and the ideals of the Arts and Crafts movement, of which Morris was one of the most influential figures. Thanks to these visits, I not only deepened my understanding of William Morris as an artist and thinker, but also gained new tools for analyzing his legacy, both in its artistic and social dimensions. These were experiences that will undoubtedly serve as a foundation for my further research.

I also greatly appreciated the walking tours: through Bloomsbury with Alec Forshaw and through Albertopolis with Kit Wedd, both of which offered a valuable opportunity to explore these districts of London 'from within'. Another highlight was the walk through Highgate Cemetery with Ian Dungavell, not only a chance to encounter exceptional funerary architecture and the layered history of the site, but also an occasion for reflecting on the cultural legacy of the Victorian era and the ways in which it is preserved and interpreted today.

Another remarkable experience was the visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum, which offered a fresh and in-depth perspective on the museum's collections related to the Great Exhibition and William Morris. In addition, the exhibition "Makers of Modern Gothic: A.W.N. Pugin and John Hardman Jr." at the V&A Museum allowed me to discover the drawings of A.W.N. Pugin, who

pioneered the 19th-century Gothic Revival. It was also fascinating to explore more of Pugin's works, including St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham, St Giles' Church in Cheadle, and one of his most significant contributions, the interior design and decoration of the Palace of Westminster. These encounters gave me a greater appreciation of his influence on Victorian architecture and aesthetics.



*Flowerpot for the Great Exhibition,
about 1851*

The visit to the Palace of Westminster was especially significant to me, as it allowed me to see places directly related to a collection held at the University of Warsaw Museum. The London Summer School provided me with a strong foundation for further research into these materials. Our museum holds the collections of Dr. Janusz Fiszer, a passionate historian and expert on the British Empire, as well as a collector of antiques, rare books, and early prints. Around his scholarly interests, he built a collection with a coherent thematic, chronological, and topographical scope. It includes previously unpublished items related primarily to the history of the Anglo-Saxon world: British orders and decorations, photographs of the royal family, and views of British cities. Dr. Fiszer's collection comprises valuable historical

artifacts of unquestionable academic significance, which enable future generations of students, PhD candidates, and researchers to deepen their understanding of the past.

Thanks to the London Summer School, I was able to visit the Palace of Westminster and compare 19th-century photographs from our collection with the present-day appearance of this iconic site. A similar experience occurred during the visit to the Manchester Royal Exchange—thanks to the opportunity to go inside the building and the insightful guidance provided by Ken Moth and Steve Roman, I was able to compare the current architecture with 19th-century visual records. This visit highlighted the importance of comparing historical visual sources with their contemporary spatial context. Being able to contrast archival photographs with the present condition of these surviving sites allowed me to view our museum's collection from a new angle—as a living testimony to culture that can still be analyzed and reinterpreted today.

I would also like to mention my visit to Rodmarton Manor, which made a strong impression on me. This rural residence, designed in the Arts and Crafts style, is regarded as one of the most important examples of architecture and craftsmanship from the early 20th century and truly embodies the ideals of the movement.

Finally, I would like to reflect on the two days spent in Oxford. This was a truly inspiring and valuable visit. I had the opportunity to learn not only about the rich history and architecture of the city, but also to experience its unique academic atmosphere and traditions. Visits to Jesus Chapel, New College Chapel, Balliol College, and the Museum of Natural History revealed the intellectual and historical wealth of this world-renowned university city.

In conclusion, the London Summer School has provided me with a solid foundation for further research, both into 19th-century English architecture and the history of English interiors. The program offered not only a wide range of expert-led lectures, but also site visits that deepened my understanding of the historical and cultural contexts of the topics explored. Particularly inspiring were the sessions devoted to English gardens and porcelain, which expanded my interests even further.

Thanks to the knowledge I have gained and the many valuable contacts made with participants and lecturers, I now feel well prepared to pursue more advanced research in this field, especially in connection with the collection of the Museum of the University of Warsaw.

Once again, I would like to thank all the organizers and lecturers for the expertly prepared program and the warm, welcoming atmosphere.



My Moment with St. Giles

— Kathleen H. Crowther (Newport '24)

It took some time for the motor coach to get to Cheadle, a small town south of the great city of Manchester. Coming upon the red sandstone church—more like a chapel but for its massive tower—it immediately impressed me as a perfect gem. Its exterior was a cohesive Gothic Revival design situated on an angular site, just down the hill from the market street of the town. Here is St Giles Church, considered a masterpiece by “God’s Architect”, August Pugin.

Before attending the London Summer School program of the Victorian Society in America, I had no idea that early antecedents of the Arts and Crafts movement can be traced to the mid-19th century revival of architectural designs from the medieval period. It was also quite amazing to me that the power of this viewpoint was so strong that it enabled an agreement that it should become the English



Kathleen Crowther is an historic preservation non-profit executive with 38 years of experience. She is the President of the Cleveland Restoration Society in Ohio.

national style. Hence, civic structures such as the Palace of Westminster were designed in this style.

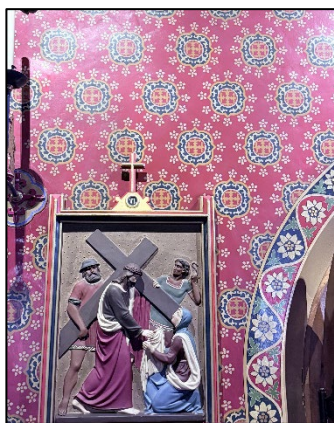
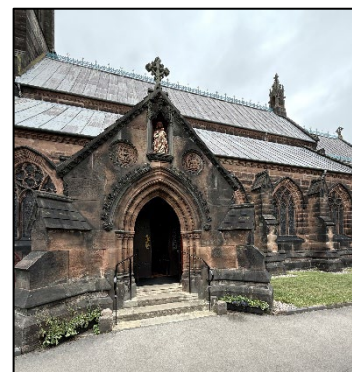
I learned that the Gothic Revival period in England came about as a response to the impersonal mechanization of the Industrial Revolution, which removed human touch. The thought was to return to simpler times, to the guilds and handcraft. This response was prior to William Morris and his rejection of machine-made products. It was surprising to me that the many designs I knew from the Arts and Crafts period were inspired by this

resurgence of medievalism. But of course, the guilds were usurped by machines. Now I was putting it together.

In Cheadle, turning the corner, I saw the red doors. Over them, heraldic-style lions in shiny brass – claws out, tongues wagging. It is the interior that takes the breath away. Every surface is decorated—top to bottom. At first, the complex patterns on the walls caught my attention. Then the pillars—all painted differently. Painted stone. Stations of the cross. Painted stone frames around the windows. Painted ceiling beams and rafters. Colorful stained-glass windows.

I had to slow down. My eyes befell the extraordinary metal work at the main altar and flanking side altars. These are superlative brass screens, ornate, surely the finest money could buy. Fit for a royal chapel. The ornate metalwork was then everywhere—candelsticks on the altar, large floor candelabras, elaborate chandeliers from the ceiling, fitted with candles. And the floors; complex designs of Minton tiles graced the main sanctuary floor. Entering the sacred space of the main altar, tiles with Latin inscriptions are on the risers and then the floor tile patterns gain more complexity. Here we were, alone in a masterpiece, a sacred and royal jewel box, able to walk where the priest celebrates the Roman Catholic mass.

Coming from Cleveland, Ohio, a town established by Connecticut Yankees in 1796, I immediately supposed that our 1907 masterpiece, Trinity Cathedral, a monumental Episcopal Church in a superlative Gothic Revival design, must somehow be influenced by August Pugin. Pugin had a short and tormented life, I eventually learned. He dedicated himself to the Roman Catholic Church, obsessive, dogmatic; eventually he loses his mind. I suppose he quickly gained entry though the pearly gates because he applied his talent and energy to creating this truly extraordinary church as an expression of his religious beliefs. St Giles Church of Cheadle is wonderful to all who enter, and it will remain so for centuries to come.



MEMBERSHIP

One of the primary goals of the Alumni Association Board this year is to increase membership so that we can continue supporting the programs and scholarships that make the Victorian Society Summer Schools such a remarkable experience. **Membership does more than keep alumni connected—it directly supports scholarships for future Summer School participants.** In 2025 alone, the Alumni Association contributed \$30,000 toward Summer School scholarships. Sustaining and expanding that support depends on alumni choosing to remain involved as members.

We need the support of all alumni. Your participation in the Alumni Association is vital to our ability to continue to provide scholarships to the students of the 2026 class and beyond.

If you have ever received a Summer School scholarship, you know how transformative that opportunity can be. This is your chance to pay it forward. Even if you were not a scholarship recipient, your membership still ensures that the next generation of preservationists, historians, and designers has the same opportunity to explore, learn, and grow.

Your membership helps sustain the programs and people who shaped our shared experiences. You'll also enjoy:

- Access to the Alumni Association newsletter—now expanded and beautifully redesigned
- Invitations to exclusive tours, study trips, and events
- Ongoing connection to fellow alumni through our Facebook page and member network

You can help in two ways. First, please take a moment today to Renew Your Membership for 2026 with the form on the following page, or through the PayPal link. There is a **special reduced membership fee of only \$30 a year for those 35 years of age and younger.** Second, be sure to tell your friends, classmates, and colleagues about the Summer Schools. Word of mouth is the best advertising!

Thank you to those of you who have already renewed. Thank you for your enduring support and commitment to preserving our shared heritage. Together, we keep the spirit of the Summer Schools alive.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY SUMMER SCHOOLS A Chapter of the Victorian Society in America

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DONORS OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Officers and members of the Alumni Association Board are very appreciative of all alumni who help support our mission. We are pleased to acknowledge the following members whose contributions over and above the basic membership amount this fiscal year¹ enable us to continue to provide significant financial assistance for scholarships to deserving students of the Victorian Society Summer Schools.

Benefactors (\$1,000 or more)

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Joseph Svehlak
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¹ Includes contributions during the period October 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026. If you see any errors, please email Alumni Association President David Lamdin at President@VSAAlumni.org.

Chicago Scholarship Donations

John Martine
Gretchen Redden
LoriThursby

Sibyl Groff Scholarship

Sibyl McCormac Groff
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Pauline Metcalf
Kenneth P'Pool
Gretchen Redden
Donald and Elizabeth Roberts Jr. Charles
Robertson III
James Russiello
Donald Schmidt
LoriThursby
Kenneth Turino and Christopher Mathias
Max Van Balgooy

Paul Duchscherer Memorial Scholarship

Sibyl McCormac Groff
John Martine
Nancy Kilpatrick
Pauline Metcalf

SUPPORT THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY SUMMER SCHOOLS

Stock Donation

A donation of long-term appreciated stocks directly to the Alumni Association of the Victorian Society Summer Schools can help you save on capital gains taxes. At the same time, you can deduct the full market value of the gift, subject to certain annual limits, potentially saving on the net investment income tax. Compared with donating cash, or selling your appreciated stock and contributing the after-tax proceeds, you may potentially increase your gift and tax donation.

Stock gifted to the Alumni Association will go into our Endowment Fund, which is managed by eCIO. To donate stock from your current custodian to the Alumni Association, please share the following information with your broker in order to complete the electronic transfer successfully:

Charles Schwab Delivery Instructions: Delivery to DTC Clearing 0164

Client Name: THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY IN AMERICA

Custodial Account Number: 4159-0651

Please notify Alumni Association President David Lamdin at President@VSAAlumni.org when a stock donation is being made. If you have any questions on how to make the donation, please contact eCIO (Investment Advisor) at (608) 291-4646.

Planned Giving: The Heritage Society of the Alumni Association

The **Heritage Society of the Alumni Association** supports our efforts to provide student scholarships for future Victorian Society Summer Schools. The Alumni Association is humbled to have an extraordinary group of supporters who feel so strongly about our primary mission to raise funds for student scholarships that they have generously included the Alumni Association in their estate planning. You are invited to join this special group of Alumni by making a planned gift such as a bequest in your will or beneficiary designations of IRAs or retirement plans.

Hank Dunlop (Boston '78; London '81, and Newport '88) has joined the Heritage Society of the Alumni Association with a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) designation from his IRA. **John C. Freed**, a longtime VSA and Alumni Association supporter, made provisions for a \$10,000 bequest to the Alumni Association in memory of his partner, **Paul Duchscherer** (Newport '91). **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. The **Bob and Carole Chapman Fund** very generously awarded a grant of \$10,000 to the Alumni Association Chapter in memory of **Carole Chapman**. **Robert Rettig** (London '06) recently advised us that he had made provision in his estate planning documents for both the VSA and the Alumni Association. These very generous alumni members have made thoughtful gifts and designations to help ensure that current and future generations of students will be able to attend the educational opportunities presented by the VSA Summer Schools.

You can join these members of the Heritage Society of the Alumni Association and support the mission of the Alumni Association while maximizing the benefits of a deferred gift. Your gift becomes part of your estate planning to protect valuable assets from income, capital gains, and/or estate taxes.

Requests by Will or Living Trust

This common estate planning technique allows you to retain control of your assets during your lifetime and avoid estate taxes. GIFTS OF LIFE INSURANCE, CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES, CHARITABLE LEAD TRUSTS, CHARITABLE REMAINDER ANNUITY TRUSTS, CHARITABLE REMAINDER UNITRUSTS, and a POOLED INCOME FUND are some of the other estate planning techniques you can discuss with your financial advisor to provide funds to the Alumni Association for scholarships to future Summer School students.

To include the **Alumni Association** in your will or trust, the following is suggested wording to take to your attorney: "After fulfilling other provisions, I give, devise and bequeath _____% of the residue and remainder of my estate (or \$_____ if a specific amount) to the Alumni Association of the Victorian Society Summer Schools, a 501(c)(3) organization, to benefit the Alumni Association (tax ID # 23-1710978), located at 2 Kings Hwy West, Suite 108, Haddonfield, NJ 08033.

It is crucial that the **Alumni Association** be identified as your gift will, otherwise it will go to the national VSA organization with whom we share EIN **23-1710978**.

Please let us know about your estate plans if you decide to join the **Heritage Society of the Alumni Association** by contacting Alumni Association President David Lamdin at President@VSAAlumni.org.