

The Freer House is home to MPSI faculty, administrative offices and meeting rooms.

CHARLES LANG FREER HOUSE

- by William Colburn, Historic Preservation Specialist and FOFH Board Member

Public education programs, fund-raisers and restoration projects kept the Friends of the Freer House (FOFH) busy this past season. In February, the Scarab Club String Quartet recreated the first concert held in Washington, D.C.'s Freer Gallery of Art. Nearly 100 people attended this chamber music benefit concert in the Freer House Exhibition Gallery (also known as the Hoobler Room) to mark the 86th anniversary of the original 1924 concert.

In March, another capacity crowd attended a lecture by Friends Board President Dr. Thomas W. Brunk (above) on "Charles Lang Freer and Detroit's Pewabic Pottery." Terese Ireland, executive director of co-sponsor Pewabic Pottery, welcomed the audience.

The Midwest Regional Conservation Guild, a professional network of art conservators, visited the Freer House in March for a



special tour and reception as part of their annual conference sponsored by the Detroit Institute of Arts. Cathy Selvius DeRoo, of the DIA Conservation Department, presented her research and analysis of the original decorative paint surfaces of the Freer House.

The Freer House is getting a new roof this spring thanks to Wayne State University's allocation of \$750,000 for a new cedar shake roof to replace the badly deteriorated existing roof. The project is being overseen by WSU architect Steve Pecic with help from the FOFH. The project includes tuck pointing repair and cleaning of the house's original fieldstone facade.

For information on membership in the Friends of the Freer House or to join the mailing list for future lectures and events, contact Rose Foster at 313-872-1790 or email rmfoster@wayne.edu



Dr. David Weinberg stands aside the giclee reproduction he donated to the Freer House. Marilyn Tuchow dedicated a giclee reproduction to her husband Gerald in honor of his birthday. Doug Haller, Harriet Berg and Anita Plous, enjoy the dedication of the reproduction donated by Harriet.

Teen Risk CONT.

neighborhoods where crime and violence become the norm." Research may point to the benefits of decentralized housing for low income residents or a voucher system with accompanying real estate-like services. "For neighborhoods to exert an overall positive effect, they can't exceed a threshold of 15% of its residents living below the poverty level. But other things might influence the impact of neighborhoods, such as social support and networks of friends and family," Jessica said. "There is much we don't know."

In addition to neighborhood effects, Jessica researches the relationship between economic status and partner violence. Previous research suggested that a drop in income could precipitate an increase in partner violence. Jessica's research, captured in a poster that won First Prize in a recent

Wayne State University graduate exhibition, found that financial strain rather than simply income was a better predictor of violence. "It wasn't a factor of how much people made," she said, "as much as whether they could pay their bills. A drop in income, an unexpected expense, any strain on the finances might cause stress that would lead to increased violence. So training in financial literacy might be a big help in these situations."

The chance to work on varied research projects across disciplines drew Jessica to the Wayne State program. A graduate student in the School of Social Work, Jessica is also a pre-doctoral trainee at MPSI and receives mentoring guidance from faculty in both areas. "I came here from Wyoming," she explained. "I'm a first-generation college student, so there was a lot I didn't know about how academia works and how to navigate the system. At MPSI, I've received extra

support, wonderful office space, experts to consult with and a clear, built-in goal system." She values the student-to-faculty and student-to-student encounters. "I've been to so many interesting presentations and brown bags with quality lecturers and time to interact. I am completely impressed with the program."

Graduate studies are going so well that Jessica's dream is to become a professor of social work at a research university, finding ways to empower vulnerable populations. "The mission and values of social work fit my personal and professional life," she said. "I want to offer my research expertise to improve programs and policy analysis." She is adamant that whatever research she conducts, it must have real-world value. "I don't want it to stop at a journal article. I want to get it out on the street." No doubt that street will be in a neighborhood that enhances the lives of its residents.

To learn more about The Charles Lang Freer House visit www.mpsi.edu/about/friends-freer.php