



# News

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## **Philadelphia University Awarded Getty Trust Campus Heritage Grant**

**PHILADELPHIA (October 4, 2004)** — Philadelphia University was awarded a \$120,000 Campus Heritage Grant by the Getty to study several architecturally and historically significant buildings and landscapes dating from the early 1800's to the 1950's on the University's East Falls campus.

In announcing the grant, Deborah Marrow, director of the Getty Grant Program, said, "Since a large portion of this nation's distinguished architectural heritage is found on college and university campuses, it is extremely important to incorporate historic preservation into the campus master planning process. We are delighted that the response to this year's Campus Heritage initiative was so strong, and impressed by the excellent project submitted by Philadelphia University."

David M. Breiner, Ph.D., associate professor of Architectural History and Theory, will head the team of historic preservationists, a landscape architect, photographer and students that will document historic properties as part of the students' overall education. In addition, the team will analyze the results in order to develop preservation plans.

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“A formalized study of our historic buildings will provide the opportunity for Philadelphia University architecture, interior design and landscape architecture students to gain hands-on experience with the nuances of past design and construction approaches that go beyond the classroom and text books,” said Breiner.

From the colonial era on, the northwest portion of Philadelphia County has been famous for its rugged Wissahickon Creek Valley. Beginning in the nineteenth century, the elite of Philadelphia society built homes on and near School House Lane, and by the 1830s the area became a popular resort locale attracting visitors to its splendid natural beauty.

“Eventually these families moved farther out to suburban areas,” explained Breiner. “But what survived is a cornucopia of architectural styles, including Federal, Gothic Revival, Victorian eclectic, neo-Georgian and French country.”

Breiner will be assisted by fellow Philadelphia University architecture professor and photographer Morna Livingston, the historic preservation firm 1:1:6 Technologies Incorporated, landscape architect and planner Susan Mattison, staff of the University of Pennsylvania’s Morris Arboretum and Philadelphia University students. The project runs from January through December 2005.

Philadelphia University began as America’s first private textile college in a city which dominated that industry during the nineteenth century. In 1949, the school moved from Center City to a 12-acre site on School House Lane. At that time, the University

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began erecting new structures, but it also acquired existing buildings and landscape features associated with the neighboring, grand-suburban estates. Philadelphia University, which now offers more than 40 undergraduate and graduate degrees in Architecture, Design, Business, Engineering, Textiles, Science and Health, currently occupies nearly 70 buildings of varying ages on 100-plus acres.

Breiner and his team anticipate uncovering the histories of these campus jewels and seeing them used to enrich the academic experience. “The beautiful physical environment of our campus is one of the reasons we feel so connected to the University. We appreciate the Getty’s interest in the University’s continuing efforts to care for, celebrate, and benefit from our architectural heritage.”

Since 2002, the Getty, one of the largest philanthropic supporters of visual arts in the country, has awarded over \$7 million to more than 50 colleges and universities in a nationwide effort to preserve historic buildings, sites and landscapes. The Campus Heritage Initiative has enabled educational institutions in 24 states to research and develop conservation plans to protect campuses in all regions of the country. Grantees include the University of Chicago, Bryn Mawr College, Barnard College, and Brown and Columbia universities.

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Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,100 part- and full-time students from 38 states and 42 countries. The University offers more than 40

undergraduate and graduate degree programs at the bachelors, masters and doctoral levels. Academic programs encompass architecture, design, business, engineering, textiles, fashion, science and health. Additional information is on the Philadelphia University website at [www.philau.edu](http://www.philau.edu).

The J. Paul Getty Trust is an international cultural and philanthropic institution devoted to the visual arts that features the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Research Institute, the Getty Conservation Institute, and the Getty Grant Program. The Getty Grant Program provides crucial support to institutions and individuals throughout the world in fields that are aligned most closely with the Getty's strategic priorities. It funds a diverse range of projects that promote learning and scholarship about the history of the visual arts and the conservation of cultural heritage, and it consistently searches for collaborative efforts that set high standards and make significant contributions. The J. Paul Getty Trust and Getty programs are based at the Getty Center in Los Angeles. Additional information is available on the Getty Web site at [www.getty.edu/grants](http://www.getty.edu/grants).