Bayshore Project, MBA students join forces

The Bayshore Discovery Project, host organization and caretaker for the A.J. Meerwald, the 1920’s oyster schooner that has been restored and is now utilized in educational and recreational tours throughout Cumberland County, has received a big helping hand from an elite group in Philadelphia—the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School MBA (Masters in Business Administration) students. The program is funded in part by the Cultural & Heritage Commission.

The Discovery Project (formerly the Delaware Bay Schooner Project), headquartered in Bivalve, is one of five participants in the University’s newly-formed “Social Impact Corps” in which students work at host non-profit organizations on an assignment designated by the organization.

Two MBA students are working on site in Bivalve four days a week for eight weeks that began June 11, according to Nancy Moses, Corps Project Manager at the University. “The concept (of the Social Impact Corps) is a creative response to the economic challenges facing this region, perhaps the most challenging since the Great Depression,” she said.

The local focus of the students’ work is to write a business plan for the operation of the facility once the “shipping sheds” are restored, said Meghan Wren, Bayshore Director. The shipping sheds are buildings formerly used as a holding area for oysters while they waited to be shipped to the marketplace.

“The business plan will focus on our transition from being without a significant facility to how we will operate with a significant center,” she said. “We’ll have a whole new facility.” The restoration process is already going on, she added.

Wren said the Discovery Project is “thrilled to have the attention and partnership of one of the premier business schools in the world.” She said she attended the University of...
The second regional Arts, Antiques & Music Festival, sponsored by the City of Millville and the Downtown Millville Merchants Association, is set for Sunday, Sept. 13, beginning at 10 a.m. The Festival showcases the talents of “practitioners in the arts and crafts, antique sellers and musicians,” according to organizer Jim Penland, a local artist and High Street gallery owner.

The annual festival will take place in the heart of the city’s Glasstown Arts District. High Street between Broad and Main Streets will be closed to traffic for the day-long event.

“We plan to reach far beyond our own city limits to promote our artistic community and celebrate the art and music of our region,” said Penland. “We want to showcase the work of serious artists working in a variety of disciplines, as well as artisans representing crafts as varied as glassblowing and woodcarving, furniture-making and restoration.”

Musicians will entertain the crowd on six stages throughout the day. Featured artists include storyteller and folk musician Jim Albertson, local trio “Take Two Plus One,” and the Vintage Spruce Jazz Swing Trio, whose style is described as “acoustic music with a swing feel.”

“Take Two Plus One,” originally known as “Take Two,” a brother-sister duo, changed its name when a third musician was added. Today the group consists of Mike Fairhurst, lead guitar and vocals; Patti Bailey, vocals; and Ken Bailey, rhythm guitar, bass and vocals. The group is known for its smooth, full sound, focusing on the classic rock music of the 1970s.

Another trio, Ravioli Shanker, also specializes in re-creating classic rock sounds and will close out the festivities at 8:30 p.m.

Announcement of cash prize winners will take place at 6 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for the Most Popular Art, Best Plein-Air (open air) Art, Best Musical Performance, Best Antique Display, Most Attractive Exhibit and Best Student Art.

Registration deadline is Sept. 7. An application form and complete information is available at millvillemerchants.com. An exhibit fee of $25 for each 10’ x 10’ space will be charged to businesses located outside of downtown Millville.

For additional information, contact the DMMA at info@millvillemerchants.com or mail to:
Downtown Millville Merchants Association, P.O. Box 793, Millville, NJ 08332.

Bayshore is part of ‘social impact’ study
(Pennsylvania, so she has a personal connection. “We’re looking forward to the outcome of (the Wharton students’) work,” she added.

In addition to their work in Bi-valve, the MBA students also meet with the project manager in a weekly seminar to “learn new skills, review progress and discuss their challenges and prepare for the week ahead,” said Moses, explaining the structured plan is similar to one followed in a traditional internship.

Valerie Malter, Program Director of the Social Impact Corps at the Wharton School, is excited about the opportunities the program holds for students. “It means being a social entrepreneur,” she said. “In this program, the business focus is on community service. It’s about students doing well and doing good.”

The A. J. Meerwald was designated New Jersey’s official Tall Ship in 1998.