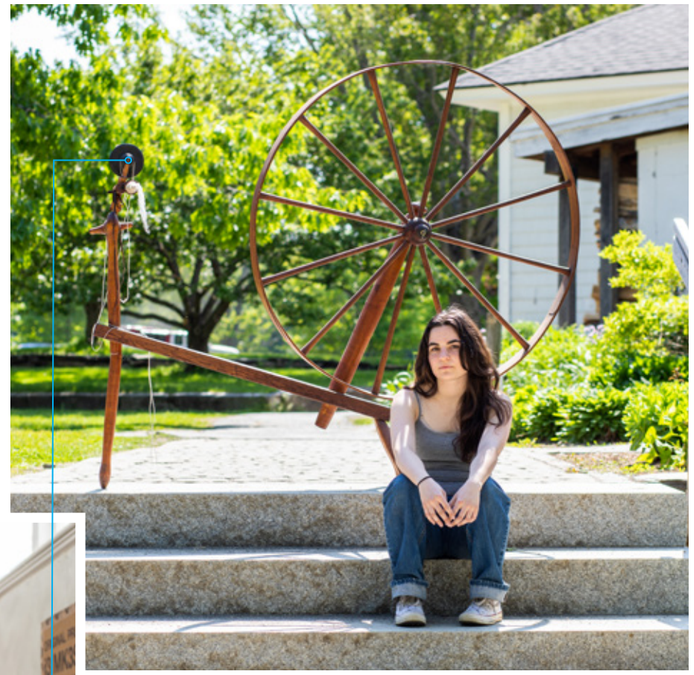
I BUILT THIS

AUTHOR MATTHEW CRAWFORD uses the term "virtualism" to describe "a vision of the future in which we somehow take leave of material reality and glide about in a pure information economy." In his book *Shop Class as Soulcraft*, he describes his journey from (disillusioned) white collar think tank employee to (deeply satisfied) repairman of motorcycles. We have this school, this experiment, where we know full well that we stand with a foot in both worlds, offering a path into a "pure information economy" and one into a "material reality." Neither is a mandated path.

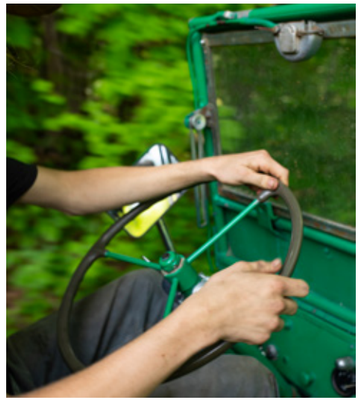
In fact, as we see here, many students find ways to explore the art of craft and using one's hands. They find a way to do so inside the slippery walls of the information economy. It's fascinating to watch how they learn, how they teach themselves, how they ask questions of the tools they have. The questions of the tool, for a progressive school, isn't the thing itself, but, in the words of science teacher Ann-Marie White: "How do we use the tools at hand to go beyond the tools at hand?"



This antique great wheel was sitting, broken, in the hallway of Reynolds. **Alison Cheney '23** noticed it, and set about to get the basic tool back to work. And while it was a basic tool requiring a basic fix, it was also an old object, missing a small but key piece that no modern store or shop would ever have.

Enter **Skylar Rainier '24**, who was working nearby at the 3D printers. He was able to see what was missing, then measure, design, and print a piece. It's a small, seemingly inconsequential piece of gray plastic that could easily roll under a radiator and be lost forever. And yet, it was the difference between operable and not for the wheel.

Giulia Puppin '23 and **Eliza Kaufman '24** led a project to build new stall doors in the horse barn, changing the style from swinging to sliding. They learned all the carpentry as they went. But the carpentry was only half of it, as the concept and design (and motivation) came from their work with the horses. Ultimately, the project improved working conditions and safety for the students and the animals.



Owen Wilsey '23 spent two years disassembling, cleaning, and rebuilding the motor of his grandfather's 1942 Jeep, which had been in Owen's family since just after WWII. The work culminated in senior exhibition, and Owen drove the Jeep in his graduation processional.