



A MESSAGE FROM DEAN HIRT

The past few weeks have been anything but routine. In the wake of the novel coronavirus, I am encouraged by the amazing work being done by our faculty, staff, and student body here at UGA. All our classes successfully transitioned to an online format, allowing our students to continue to enjoy the benefits of a world-class education. I wish to share my thoughts on what CED is doing to overcome the latest challenges, as well as share some notes of hope.

The role of the University of Georgia (and every other institution like it) is not only to instruct the next generation of thoughtful, innovative citizens and professionals, but also to positively contribute to the larger academic, economic, and societal changes taking place locally and abroad. [We should all be taking adequate precautions to safeguard the health of everyone on and off campus](#) and we should all be committing our time and efforts to meaningful improvements in public health and safety. Our expertise in community design, public spaces, parks, greenways, and public engagement are indeed central to the advancement of health and safety. We will be increasingly utilizing our unique expertise with this noble task in mind!

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While the news may seem as if there is only doom and gloom, CED has recently scored some important wins:

- The Center for Community Design and Preservation was awarded a \$330,000, multi-year contract from the Georgia Department of Transportation to conduct a historic building survey in the city of Macon;
- [CED Professors Scott Nesbit and Cari Goetcheus successfully navigated the tenure and promotion process;](#)
- Ethan Laughman was recently brought on as CED’s new Recruitment, Marketing, and Communications Specialist; and
- Our proposal for a Dual Degree between our Master of Environmental (soon-to-be Urban) Planning Program and the Juris Doctorate (JD) has been approved and is effective summer 2020.

Additionally, come May, we expect our CED seniors and advanced masters students to graduate on schedule and be fully Prepared to Shape Our World. Our faculty, staff, alumni, and friends will continue to support the current students in all ways that we can. When we reconvene on campus, we will do so with refreshed perspectives, energized to make a difference in new, creative ways.

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I hope that everyone is faithfully adhering to the “shelter in place” guidelines, thus helping protect those most at risk. Together—and only together—we will ensure a return to the normal.

As most of you know, this year marks CED’s 50th anniversary. Clichéd as it sounds, we truly could not have come this far without our faculty, staff, alumni, and students over the years. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do!

Best,

Dr. Sonia Hirt
Dean and Hughes Professor in Landscape Architecture and Planning

