

Hello friends and colleagues,

February is traditionally a time for reflection on the many accomplishments of African-Americans in the history of our nation, and provides an opportunity to hear stories too often untold. It prompts us to affirm that Black history is American history, and should not be confined to recognition during one month of the year. More importantly, we are also reminded that we have to go farther as a nation – and as a University & College – in dedicating ourselves to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The College of Environment and Design counts some of the most prominent Black landscape architects among its alumni. Trailblazers such as Karen Phillips and Kona Gray, who are both included in this issue, are recognized nationally and internationally as leaders in their field. Yet landscape architecture, historic preservation, and urban planning are all, broadly, fields that lack racial diversity. It is important that our students – current and future – see themselves represented in the careers that interest them and in the faculty that teach them. Recent student surveys via the CED student organization [Lettus Collective](#) has challenged us to consider curriculum revisions, dismantle systemic racism, and advocate for design as a tool for healing and justice.

This year, the University of Georgia and its academic Schools and Colleges are each revising their plan for advancing goals towards diversity, equity, and inclusion. We at the CED are building on the work of past inclusionary efforts with fresh intent – responding to the challenges we see our colleagues championing nationally, and listening to our faculty, staff, and students. We are pledging to spend the upcoming year collectively and collaboratively moving farther to ensure that CED reflects our intrinsic values as designers of spaces, guardians of history, and builders of community. As our students have pointed out, our disciplines are well versed in processes that “create a collaborative and open environment that positions design as a conversation conduit and barrier breaker.”

We hope you will enjoy the latest news from the CED, and continue to keep in touch,

Sonia Hirt
Dean Sonia Hirt

News



Improving Rural Health through Design

Researchers have identified significant linkages between public health and the design of the built environment. CED has joined a UGA team to add expertise in land design and construction, walkability, and community engagement in order to help five Georgia counties experiencing high rates of obesity. [READ MORE](#)



Karen Phillips, BLA '75

Karen A. Phillips, FASLA was awarded this year's 2021 [Landscape Architecture Foundation Medal](#), recognizing an expansive career in community development, public service, real estate, environmental design, urban planning, and revitalization. [READ MORE](#)

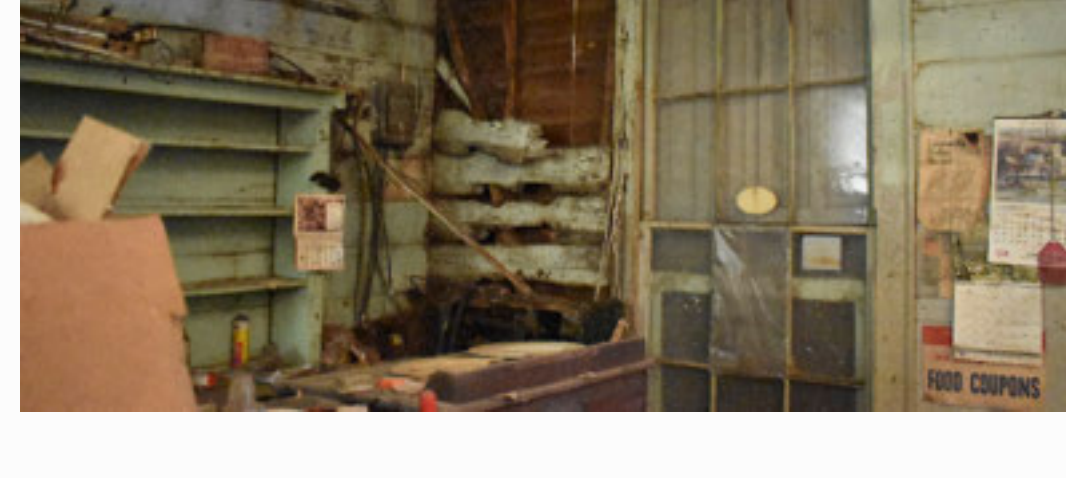


Kona Gray, BLA '97

Kona Gray will deliver the spring Commencement address at the College of Environment and Design at the University of Georgia. [READ MORE](#)

[CED COMMENCEMENT >](#)

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE



SERVICE AND SOCIAL CHANGE



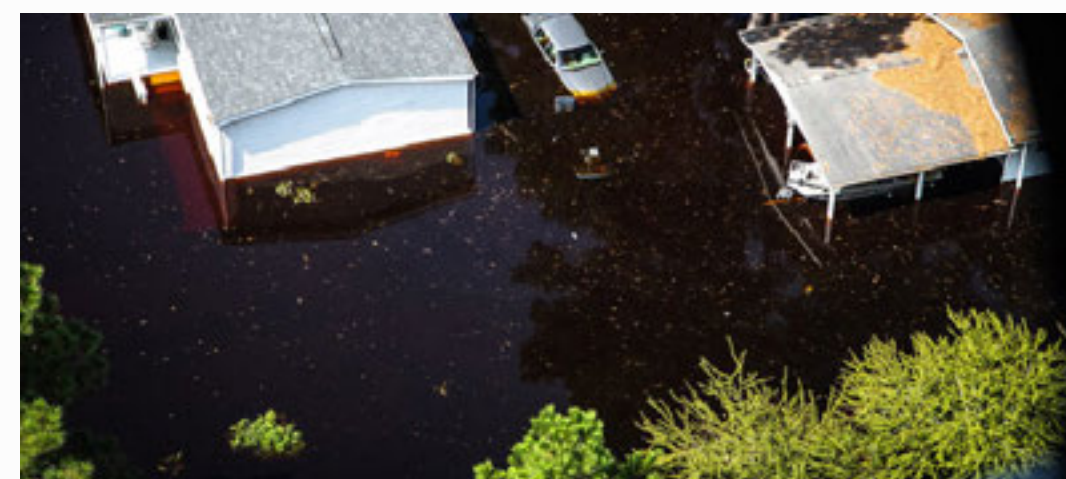
MEADOW RESEARCH



PUBLIC IMPACT GRANT



INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH



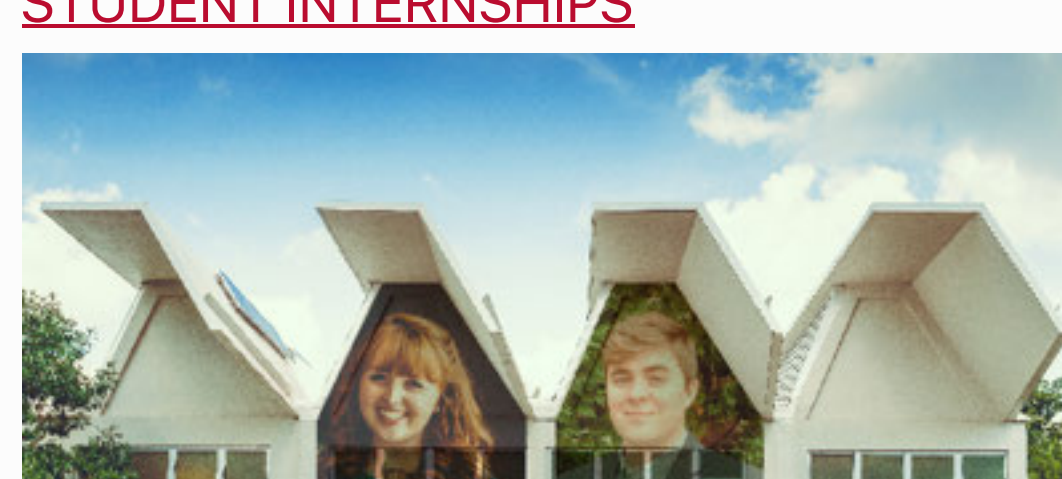
FACULTY RECOGNIZED BY STUDENTS



ALUMNI NEWS: JON WILLIAMS



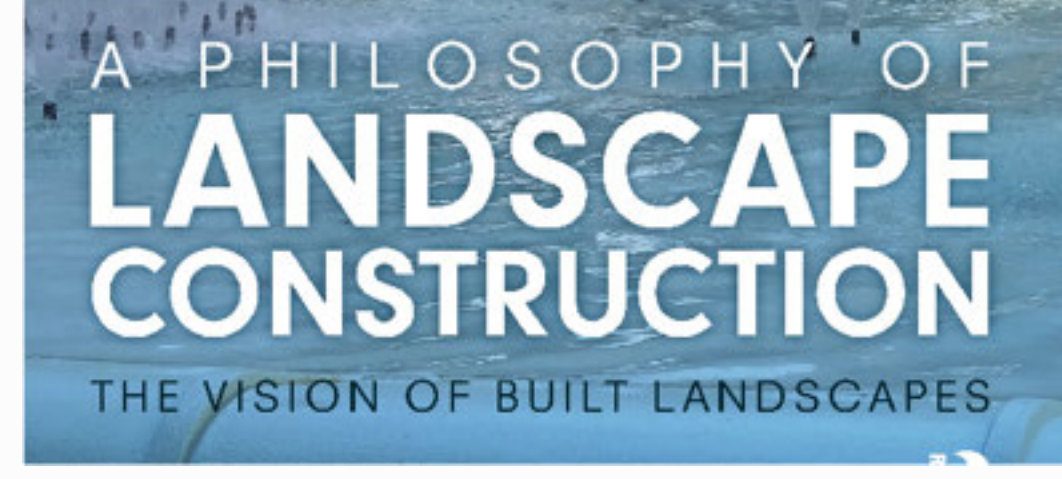
STUDENT INTERNSHIPS



PLANTS IN DESIGN



BUILT LANDSCAPES



FELLOWS PROGRAM



TEDxUGA



CAPTURING COVID-19



ADVANCED ECOLOGY CLASS



Upcoming Virtual Lectures

The College of Environment and Design's Lecture Committee and the Environmental Ethics Committee are pleased to offer several outstanding lecturers virtually this spring, as well as an ongoing exhibit in the Circle Gallery and Special Collections. All lectures are free and open to the public, but you must register in advance. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.



March 3 | 4:30 p.m.
Why Old Places Matter: Heritage, Belonging, and Place



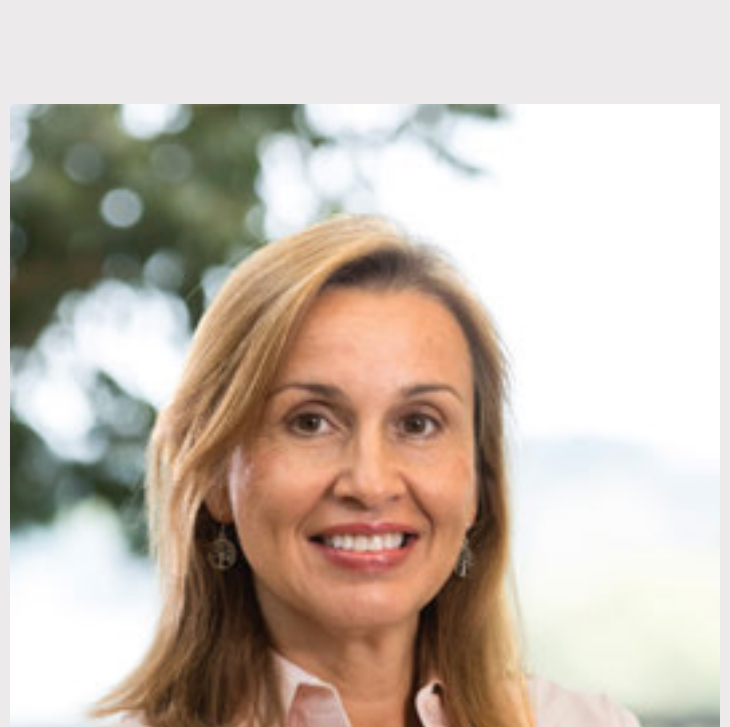
March 9 | 5:30 p.m.
Futures Beyond Refining



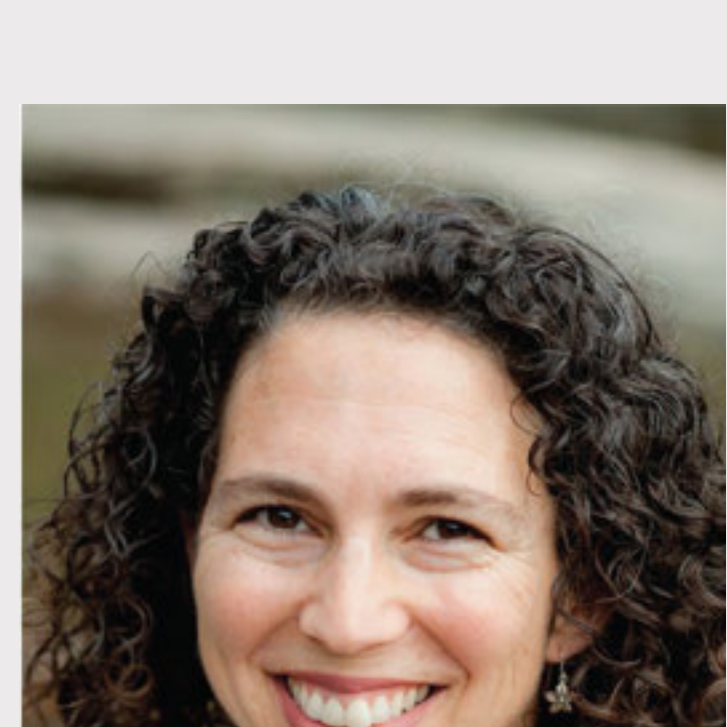
March 17, 4:30 p.m.
Environmental Issues of Cultural Heritage



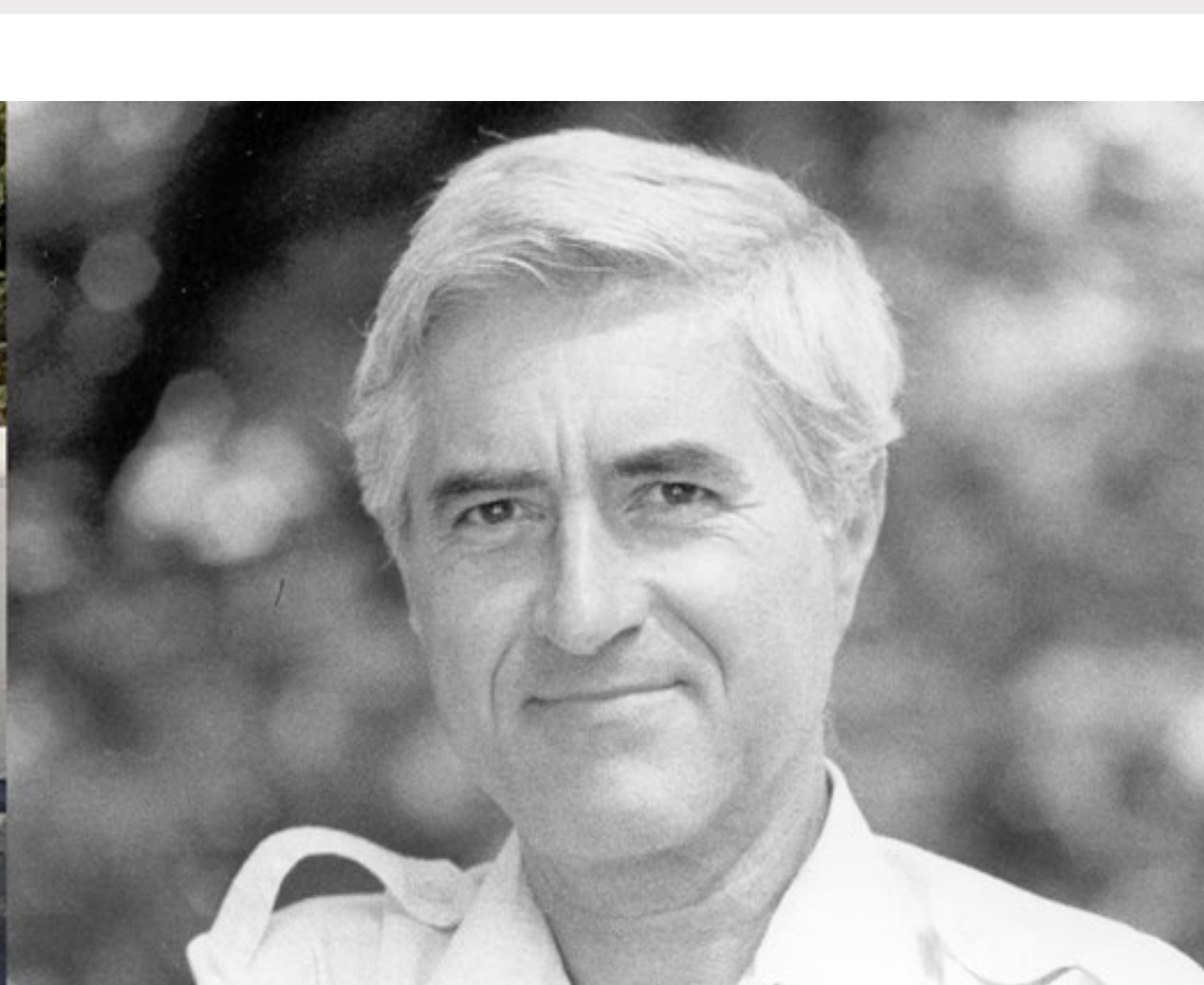
March 30 | 5:30 p.m.
The Montology of Community-Based Conservation: Earth Ethics in Tropolandscapes



April 14 | 4:30 p.m.
Learning from Jane Jacobs's "The Death and Life of Great American Cities" Sixty Years Later



April 20, 5:30 p.m.
Advancing Locally-led Climate Adaptation through Collective Impact Water Management



Former CED Dean Bob Nicholls runs the Peachtree Road Race

The CED community congratulates Dean Bob Nicholls on receiving first place in his age group for this year's Peachtree Road Race. The 51st annual race on which Nicholls was honored was modified as a completely virtual event on Thanksgiving, 2020 due to Covid-19. Participants were given a special app on their phones and were allowed to complete the 10K between the hours of 12:01 a.m. and 11:59 p.m.

Thanksgiving happened to also be Bob's 90th birthday. As he said, "I was the youngest 90 year-old to win in the age group." Bob ran the entire race at Sandy Creek Park in Athens with the help of his son Peter who stood by with an extra battery for his phone.

Bob has been running the "Peachtree" since the late 1980s. He placed second in his age group twice before, and even came close to winning once, but said that while he was 30 minutes ahead of his competitor, he stopped to help a fellow runner and ended up coming in second place.

This year, he beat him.

[Give Back to the CED >](#)

[Alumni: Update your Info >](#)