

February 2021

# Newsletter

MASTER OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION



College of  
Environment + Design  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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**MHP Hashtag #ugahp**

# Welcome to the February 2021 Edition of the MHP Program Newsletter

The University of Georgia's Masters of Historic Preservation program returned to campus following the sudden campus closure March 2020 and university-wide online instruction in response to the on-going COVID-19 crisis. This semester, the MHP adapted its curriculum and traditions to the "new normal." Students participated in field studies such as the new student orientation while following CDC guidelines. Faculty invited guest speakers from across the country, including former MHP alumni and other historic preservation professionals, to speak to students via Zoom from the safety of their homes. In October, an online celebration for MHP Founder and Professor Emeritus John Waters connected MHP faculty, students and alumni living and working across the country. Please join us in reflecting on the remarkable innovations and exciting news from the program and its alumni.

# What's Happening

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## Adapting First-year Orientation

The first-year student orientation kicked off with a socially-distanced tour of the Shields-Ethridge Heritage Farm in Jackson County, GA, an outdoor agricultural museum in Jackson County.

Departmental professors James Reap, Cari Goetcheus, and Mark Reinberger led incoming students on a tour of the site's many intact 19th and 20th century agricultural buildings—all while staying six feet apart!



Professor Mark Reinberger points to the sign at the Teacher's Residence during the Shields-Ethridge Farm Orientation trip.



Students in Professor Cari Goetcheus' Rural Preservation course taking a tour of Hardman Farms in Sautee Nacoochee, GA.

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## Sautee Nacoochee Rural Preservation Trip

In Professor Cari Goetcheus's Rural Preservation course, students learned about issues in rural preservation through classroom and hands-on field studies. Students took a trip to the Sautee Nacoochee Valley, Georgia. The class visited notable local historic sites such as Hardman Farm State Historic Park, one of Georgia's first rural landscapes listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, the 173-acre park showcases agricultural technology and practices.

Students also visited another notable site, the Stovall Mill Bridge, Georgia's shortest clear-span covered bridge.



The Stovall Mill Bridge in Sautee Nacoochee, GA, a site visited during the Rural Preservation Trip.

# Alumni Updates

## Tom Pfister

(MHP '00) spotlighted UGA's Innovation District and its multi-million dollar renovation of the Spring Street Building in his article for Forbes, "How Innovation Springs Forth At The University of Georgia." Read the full article on [Forbes](#).

## Emily Hines

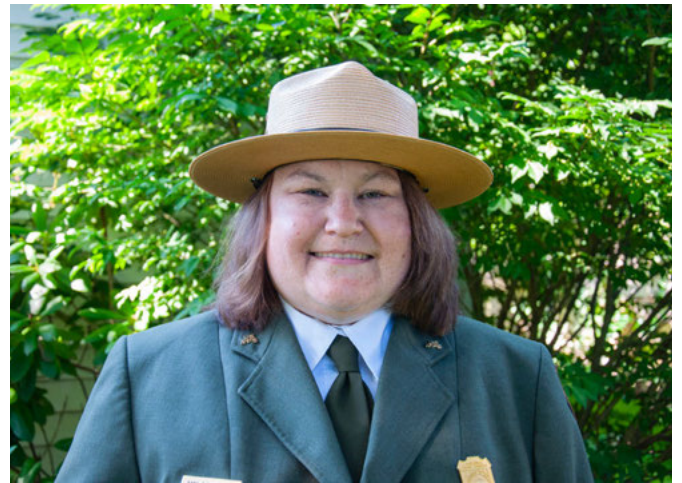
(M. Ed. UGA '12) moved to Michigan's Upper Peninsula in the fall of 2018, working as a freelance writer, social media consultant, and travel blogger. In 2020, she joined the team at Firebelly Marketing as a social media manager. Her daughter Fern celebrated her first birthday this August. To read her online travel blog, visit [emsontheroad.com](http://emsontheroad.com) or on social media @emsontheroad.



Emily Hines, Ryan and their daughter, Fern.

## Amy Bracewell

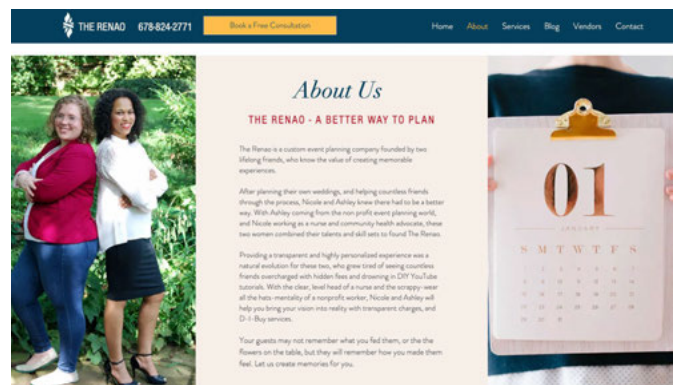
(’08 MHP) was selected as the superintendent of the Vanderbilt-Roosevelt-Van Buren National Historic Sites in upstate New York by the National Park Service in July 2020. The sites include the Home of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt’s Val-Kill, the Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park, and Martin Van Buren National Historic Site. Amy will be working with approximately 75 employees to preserve and protect four historic houses and their associated outbuildings. The Home of Franklin Delano Roosevelt is also the location of his presidential library, which the National Archives and Record Administration manage.



Amy Bracewell posing in her National Park Service Uniform.

## Ashley Cissel Lee

(MHP '11) founded an event planning company, The Renao ([TheRenao.com](http://TheRenao.com)), in 2018. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Ashley and her business partner plan to relaunch in the Spring of 2021. They hope to become a hybrid of event planning and specializing in small in-person and broadcasted events.



therenao.com

# Donna Adamson

(MHP '85) was the first graduate of the Masters in Historic Preservation program in 1985, UGA's bicentennial year. She began her career as a real estate appraiser, specializing in historic properties until she stepped into her current role as the Harper Fowlkes House Museum's Executive Director in Savannah, Georgia. She is an active volunteer. Highlights include serving as president of the Historic Savannah Foundation and acting as a board member for the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy.

Donna has also remained an advocate of UGA's MHP program. To her, the Historic Preservation program at UGA is critical for placing preservation-minded professionals into various career disciplines, including those who provide expertise to local and state governments, staff preservation nonprofits, and enhance other professions such as urban planning and landscape architecture. The program is broad-based, creates the possibility for various interests, and allows for networking in the field. "Staying involved with the College of Environment and Design over the years continued to enhance my career, and it has been gratifying to see the program grow," explained Donna.

# Kip Wright

(MHP '92) was recently hired as a Senior Environmental Protection Specialist for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He is assigned to the Environmental Planning/Historic Preservation (EHP) Section at the FEMA Consolidated Resource Center in Denton, Texas. FEMA employed him following his one-year deployment as a contractor to Puerto Rico. He served throughout the island as a Historic Preservation Specialist with Dewberry Engineering.

Kip encourages other environmental professionals to join him at FEMA. EHP staff at FEMA is currently understaffed. On November 15, FEMA will begin a two-year nationwide effort to fill numerous environmental staff vacancies by placing hiring advertisements on Indeed.com, Zip Recruiter, and the USA Jobs website. MHPs and MLAs are a perfect fit!



Donna Adamson, the first graduate of the Masters in Historic Preservation program.

## Put Your Name in UGA's MHP History Book

Students and alumni, celebrate your history-making news with the CED. Email your personal and career updates to [UGAHP@uga.edu](mailto:UGAHP@uga.edu).

Follow the [MHP LinkedIn](#) group for preservation news and job postings. Like [UGA SHPO](#) on Facebook updates on the day-to-day of the program such as lectures and alumni-student networking events. We hope to see you in there!

## Zoom Lecture with Tom Mayes

**Why Old Places Matter: Heritage, Belonging, and Place.** Tom Mayes, General Counsel, National Trust for Historic Preservation [Free Registration \(Mar 3, 4:30 pm\)](#)

Why Do Old Places Matter? How does saving and reusing the old places in our communities support our sense of well-being? Thompson Mayes, author of "Why Old Places Matter: How Historic Places Affect Our Identity and Well-Being" explores the way people's experience of place, and the way the body responds, help us flourish.

The Spring 2021 Lecture is made possible with financial support from the College of Environment and Design and the Eleanor Ferguson Vincent fund.

# News from Denmark

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## Cultural Landscape Project Takes Root at the CED

CED professor **Daniel Nadenicek** is leading students in a collaborative project to preserve a cultural landscape, Mill Pond Plantation. It is a 7,000 hunting preserve near Thomasville, Georgia. Jephtha Homer Wade II purchased land for that purpose in several parcels beginning in 1903. By 1904, Mr. Wade had hired Hubbell & Benes, a Cleveland, Ohio architecture firm, to design the Spanish Revival Style house and Warren Manning, a renowned Massachusetts-based landscape architect, to design the landscape adjacent to the house, dependencies, woods, and vegetable gardens. Manning's planting design was constructed atop a formal scheme consisting of two interconnecting radial patterns.

Because of the historic nature of the property and Warren Manning's significant involvement, the Mill Pond Plantation has agreed to fund two CED graduate assistants, **Seth Boles** in the MHP program and **Keelie Windom**, an MLA student. Seth is engaging in historical research, and Keelie is analyzing the site. Mill Pond Plantation hopes that the two students will gain a deeper appreciation of Manning's work set within a larger landscape of former cotton fields transformed into hunting preserves and expect nothing in return from the students' study.

## Sowing New Scholarship

An article by **Stephanie Bryan** (MLA '11) was published in *Garden Citings*, a Cherokee Garden Library publication. The article featured work by Bryan, Professor **Cari Goetcheus**, and Library Director **Staci Catron** in documenting three significant cultural landscapes for the Garden Club of Georgia's Historic Landscapes Initiative. "Documenting Vernacular Landscapes During the Pandemic" focused particularly on their challenges in capturing the essence of Harold Rittenberry's sculpture yard in Athens.

A second article, "Serene Spaces: the Cothran-Danylchak Papers," highlighted the collection of papers and research materials donated to the Cherokee Garden Library that supported the writing of *Grave Landscapes: The Nineteenth-Century Rural Cemetery Movement*, a book by **James R. "Jim" Cothran** (MLA '69) and **Erica Danylchak**, published after Cothran's death in 2012. Cothran taught many University of Georgia MLA and MHP students as an adjunct professor in the Southern Garden History and Ideas of Nature courses.



Professor Cari Goetcheus speaking with Athens-Clarke County-based metal artist Harold Rittenerry, Jr.

# Place-making while Sheltering in Place

This past summer, **Caitlyn McSwigan** was selected for a National Council for Preservation Education (NCPE) internship with the National Park Service's Midwest Regional Office in Omaha, Nebraska. Due to the coronavirus, the office closed indefinitely, and her internship was postponed. Fortunately, she was able to start as a remote intern in October.

As a Historic Preservation Partnerships intern, Caitlyn will be responsible for creating this year's issue of *Exceptional Places*, the Midwest Region's National Historic Landmark (NHL) newsletter. For the lead article, she will be focusing on Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Memorial Hospital in Walthill, Nebraska. As the first American Indian woman to earn a medical degree, Susan's story of perseverance and dedication to the Omaha tribe is inspiring and deserving of commemoration. Her hospital is currently being renovated to be used as a community center and wellness clinic for the Omaha tribe. Although she wishes she could see Dr. Susan's legacy in person, Caitlyn is so grateful that the Midwest Regional Office adapted her internship into a remote format.

# MHP Student Leading Cemetery Preservation

**Elizabeth Jones** was recently awarded the 2020 National Council of Preservation Education Grant for \$2,000 to continue stewardship efforts in the historic Zion Hill Cemetery. The NCPE reviewers found the project "supporting the continued research, documentation, and interpretation of the Friends of Zion Hill Cemetery to be an excellent example of the type of engaged, interdisciplinary work undertaken by preservationists in the 21st century, and an effective vehicle communicating the value of historic preservation." Through the Monroe Museum, Friends

of Zion Hill Cemetery was awarded a matching Historic Landscape Grant of \$2000 from the Garden Club of Georgia.

Grant funded activities will include a Ground Penetrating Radar survey by Omega Mapping to determine the probable location and number of both marked and unmarked graves. The GPR survey information was gathered last December, and a map handout for the public will be available in 2021. Friends of Zion Hill Cemetery will uncover the partially hidden stones of bed graves and plant a section in the front of the cemetery with heritage bulbs and traditional heritage cemetery plants. After restoration work is completed, Elizabeth would like to see the cemetery come under the care of the City of Monroe, Georgia through Georgia's Abandoned Cemetery Law.

Jones organized a Facebook page, [Friends of Zion Hill Cemetery Monroe, Georgia](#). Volunteers meet on two Saturdays of the month to preserve the African American cultural heritage of Zion Hill Cemetery, located near downtown Monroe, Georgia. This past year, with the aid of the 2019 National Council for Preservation Education's Communicating the Value of Historic Preservation Grant, Friends of Zion Hill cleared the cemetery of invasive overgrowth. Volunteers also participated by cleaning markers with D/2 biological solution, and the City of Monroe Fire Department provided water for the event, as seen in this [video](#) by Stephanie Calabrese.

For additional information about the project, Elizabeth Jones may be reached at 706-621-3580 or [Landon6488@gmail.com](mailto:Landon6488@gmail.com).



Elizabeth Jones (second from left) standing with volunteers during a cemetery clean-up event in Zion Cemetery in Monroe, GA.



# Celebrating Donna Gabriel

Donna Gabriel, student services professional in the College of Environment and Design, retired in December 2020. A leading member of the CED community, her experiences at the University of Georgia have included a wide range of ups and down and many fun times. She feels as if she adopted many of the students she helped with university processes. As the Graduate Program Advisor, Donna has always been there to help the students get into the program, succeed in their studies, and launch successful careers.

Donna has experienced many notable events during her time with Terry College and the College of Environment and Design. One of these events was the Brooks Hall Fire in 1995. She remembers it sadly. She also mentioned how she enjoyed the Olympics coming to Atlanta in 1996, and the campus shutting down. Donna jokes about surviving the merger into the University System of Georgia's OneSource business software and all that that entailed. When she first came to UGA, she set out some fun goals, such as visiting every building on campus. A building she believes is overlooked is the Natural History Museum on campus.

In retirement, Donna is looking forward to babysitting her young granddaughter, taking care of Sam, her mini dachshund, and "piddling." Donna attributes her "piddling" to a family member who would always start new projects and never complete them. Hopefully, now, Donna will have time to make headway on those projects that she enjoys. Donna also looks forward to more volunteer work with the Oglethorpe and Madison Rock Eagle 4H Youth Program.

When asked for advice for students, Donna urged them to practice patience with everything and to take the time and enjoy the moment.

As Donna transitioned to retirement, she also reflected on the knickknacks and jars of sand that adorn her office wall. A wide assortment of jars and bottles line the shelves — all from students, alumni, and faculty from their travels around the world. Some of these samples include chalk from England, salt from a mine in the Czech Republic, sand from Brazil, ash from Mt. St. Helens, and some small blue tile beads from Turkey.

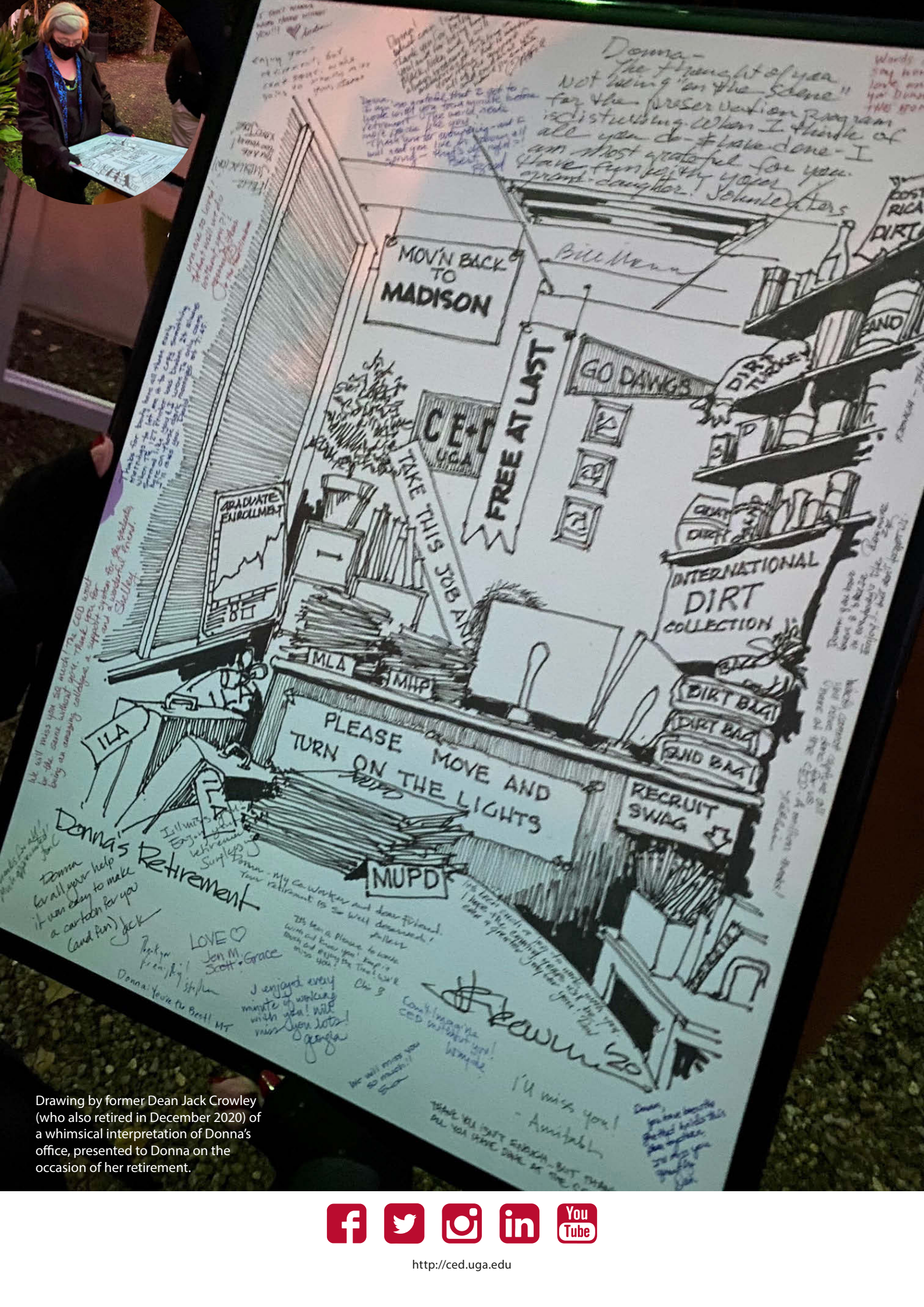
We hope Donna has a wonderful and relaxing retirement filled with wonderful memories from her time at the University of Georgia!



Donna Gabriel (left) chatting with MHP students during her retirement party in front of Denmark Hall. Photo courtesy of Jennifer M. Lewis.



MHP Students, faculty, and staff enjoying a socially-distanced get-together to celebrate Donna in November 2020. Photo courtesy of Megan McPherson.



Drawing by former Dean Jack Crowley (who also retired in December 2020) of a whimsical interpretation of Donna's office, presented to Donna on the occasion of her retirement.

