

FALL 2023

Newsletter

UGA Historic Preservation Program



College of
Environment + Design
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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WELCOME TO THE FALL 2023 EDITION OF THE UGA HISTORIC PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER

It has been a year of change for the historic preservation program at UGA. The academic year began with Dr. Nesbit's appointment to program coordinator, new faculty joining the program, and the opening of a new space where MHP students could gather. It was also marked by the sudden and unexpected passing of the program's founder, Professor John Waters. The annual preservation perspectives trip found students exploring the city of Savannah, and for the second year, the tradition of Cultural Dinner was brought back in the Spring. Events at Professor Mark Reinberger's house also kept our program in community. As we celebrate forty years of the program, we dedicate this newsletter to John Waters.

Remembering John Waters

By: Amy Andrews

John Caldwell Waters was born in 1936 in Natchez, Mississippi, and grew up in Bainbridge and Savannah, Georgia. His stepfather, aware of Waters' interest in landscapes, recommended that Waters study landscape architecture at the University of Georgia under Hubert Bond Owens, who was a well-respected professional and academic in that field. Waters' stepfather had been one of Owens' first graduates in 1931. Waters began his studies in 1954 and graduated with a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture in 1958.

Upon graduating, Waters worked for the city of Long Beach, California as an independent landscape architect. In 1964, he was hired by Eckbo, Dean, Austin and Williams (EDAW) in Los Angeles—a multinational planning firm known for being progressive, innovative and environmentally conscious. During his time there, Waters was involved in several projects that had preservation components, and he had a small role in a broad effort to save a house by a noted architect, although it ultimately failed. He worked at EDAW from 1964-66, and it was his last professional job before joining the UGA faculty.

In 1966, Waters returned to UGA to accept a joint position with the University of Georgia landscape architecture department and the Institute of Community and Area Development (ICAD). In this joint position, he taught landscape architecture classes and provided consultation to Georgia communities, organizations and elected officials in the areas of landscape architecture and planning. In 1969, three years after Waters returned to UGA, the landscape architecture program became its own school—the School of Environmental Design—and Hubert Owens

was named dean. Waters earned his master's in landscape architecture from that school in 1970.

Waters realized that very few people in the community or at the university were knowledgeable about historic preservation, and there was no training available locally. This realization led to him developing formal courses to meet this gap. In 1973, he created and taught a six-week course on the theory of preservation and architectural styles at the UGA Georgia Center for Continuing Education. Although the course was non-credit and the participants were local citizens, Waters used it as a recruitment tool for a college-level credit course he wanted to develop. He made a proposal to Dean Hubert Owens to develop a seminar on historic preservation for landscape architecture students at the School of Environmental Design, which would also be open to any other students who wanted to enroll.

Waters continued to expand his knowledge of historic preservation principles and practices through reading, research, conferences and experience. He took two historic preservation classes post-graduation—one at Cornell University in 1976 and one at the University of Vermont in 1980. While he did not have advanced formal training in historic preservation, his activism at the local and state level made him extremely knowledgeable in the field. Wanting to also increase awareness of historic preservation in Georgia, Waters was instrumental in initiating and organizing the first state historic preservation conference, which eventually led to the establishment of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation in 1973. Activism during his career helped facilitate important historic preservation legislation at the state level; he worked with others to draft language for the Georgia Historic Preservation Act, which was passed in 1980.

In an effort to raise public awareness on the implications of the new historic preservation act, Waters wrote a book to guide communities titled *Maintaining a Sense of Place: A Citizen's Guide to Community Preservation*, published in 1983. It offered a brief overview of the history of historic preservation on a national and state level and a step-by-step guide to enacting a local historic preservation ordinance and preservation commission.

He became more immersed in the academic aspect of historic preservation and resolved to create a master's program in historic preservation (MHP) at the University of Georgia. Waters realized both the need and opportunity to train historic preservation professionals who would have the knowledge and skills to become leaders using the opportunities provided by the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act and the 1980 Georgia Historic Preservation Act. He developed the program, and in 1981, it was approved by the Board of Regents. The first classes were held in fall 1982 with five students enrolled. Waters developed all of the program's courses, and he served as the program's coordinator. He and a small group of faculty members from the landscape architecture program and other departments taught the courses. Under Waters' guidance, a Joint Master of Historic Preservation/Juris Doctor program was initiated, field study courses were added, and undergraduate and graduate certificate programs were introduced. Waters remained in the coordinator position for the Graduate Studies in Historic Preservation for 31 years and retired in 2013.

His founding of the MHP program at the University of Georgia is one of his most important legacies. The program was the first in the state to offer a master's degree in historic preservation at a public university, and it continues to be one of only two public institutions in the state to offer this degree.

When friends and alumni gathered to celebrate Waters' life in October 2022, attendees

remembered his life and legacy. In addition to his contributions to historic preservation, they also reflected on his gracious demeanor, his eloquent way with words, and his passion for his home on Milledge Circle, Greyside, with its lovely gardens. He and his wife Charlotte happily shared their home with others, and those memories will long be cherished.

As the program embarks on its next forty years, John Waters' influence will remain a guiding light for those who follow in his path. He will not be forgotten, and he will continue to be missed by all.



YEAR IN REVIEW

MHP Students move to new Caldwell Space

At the beginning of this year, the students of the MHP program moved across the breezeway into G14 Caldwell. This new lounge area is equipped with desks and lockers for each student as well as computers featuring the latest programs and software. In this space, students are able to gather, study, and socialize with one another.



View of Caldwell G14

Student Historic Preservation Organization

The Student Historic Preservation Organization worked hard to organize many events this past year. They hosted a successful “Coffee-Talk” series which allowed for faculty, alumni, and local preservation professionals to share their stories and knowledge with students. They also fostered community among students by hosting social events and gatherings that gave SHPO members an opportunity to spend time together outside of the classroom.

Visiting Lecturer

In April, Vyta Pivo visited the College of Environment and Design as a part of the college’s guest lecture series. Pivo lectured on her current project, *The Gospel of Concrete: American Infrastructure and Global Power*, which documents the global ambitions of the U.S. cement and concrete industries. MHP students who attended the lecture enjoyed looking at this radical material from a new perspective.



Students attending Pivo’s lecture on April 12, 2023

Savannah Preservation Perspectives Field Trip

In February, the students and faculty of the Master of Historic Preservation program embarked on their annual Preservation Perspectives Trip. This year, students and faculty traveled to Savannah, Georgia for a three-day trip filled with visits to historic sites and meetings with preservationists in different roles across the city.

On the first day of the trip, students and faculty met at the Tybee Island Lighthouse. There they met with Sarah Owens, the Director of the Tybee Island Historical Society. Ms. Owens led students on a tour of the Light Keeper’s Cottages nearby, and then students were free to climb to the top of the lighthouse. Afterwards, students visited Fort Pulaski where site

Superintendent, Melissa Memory, led students and faculty on a tour of the grounds.

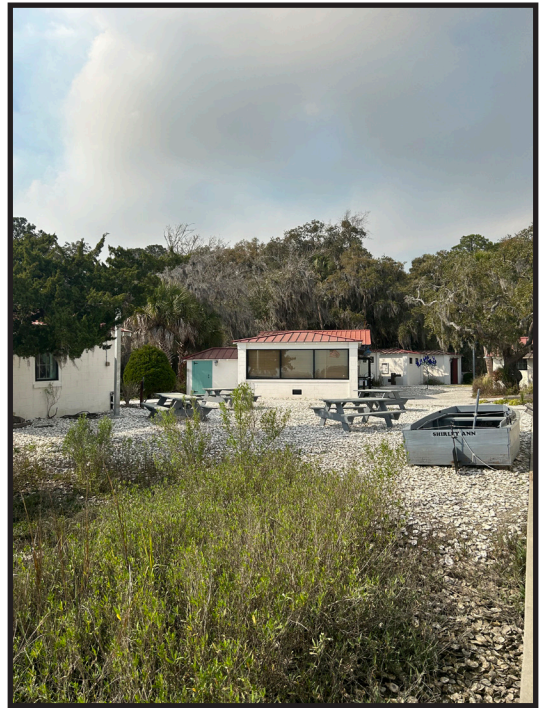
On the second day of the trip, students and faculty started the day at the Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters. Elyse Gerstenecker guided everyone through the space and discussed the ways in which the sites interpretation has changed in recent years. The group found it impactful to begin the tour in the slave quarters. This area features a wall with the names of enslaved people known to have been in this space. Following the tour, the group visited the Chatham County – Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission and talked to the Director of Historic Preservation, Leah G. Michalak about the role of the city in preservation efforts.



Students outside of the Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters

Following this meeting, students met with the Historic Savannah Foundation. Ryan Jarles, the Director of Preservation and Historic Properties and Kimberly Newfold, the Education and Research Associate, talked with the group about HSF's role in the city and gave students a tour of the Kiah House Museum, which they had recently acquired.

Afterwards, students toured the Laurel Grove Cemetery, North and South with Sam Beetler who is the Director of City Cemeteries for Savannah. He talked to students about maintenance practices and the historical differences between the different parts of the cemetery.



View of the Pin Point Heritage Museum

On the last day of the trip, students met with Ethos Preservation to discuss the ongoing efforts with the Isle of Hope Historic District. In the afternoon, the group visited the UGA Center for Research and Education on Skidaway Island. Professor Goetcheus took students on a tour of the Wormsloe Historic Site and discussed the landscape and archaeological elements in the area.

The trip ended with a visit to the Pin Point Heritage Museum. Students learned about Gulla Geechee Culture and the community that formed on these islands off the coast of Savannah.

To recap the trip, each MHP student created a poster focusing on one of the sites and one of the following areas: interpretation, funding, climate change, and materials. The students displayed the posters in the Caldwell Lounge and held a reception where they presented their posters.

Thank you to everyone who made this trip and project possible!

Faculty Updates



Dr. Scott Nesbit completed his first year as the program coordinator for the historic preservation program this spring. He continues to teach classes in historic preservation and planning as he works to continue the growth and management of the program.

Professor James Reap has been elected to a three-year term as Vice President of the United States Committee of the Blue Shield. This organization works to protect cultural heritage across the world during periods of armed conflict and natural disaster.



Professor Cari Goetcheus's new book, *The Routledge Handbook of Cultural Landscape Practice*, was published in February. Working alongside Steve Brown, this text promises to become a new standard in the field of cultural landscapes.



Professor Goetcheus with her new book in front of Denmark Hall.

New Faces around Denamark



Mr. Joe Smith



Dr. Katie Marages

Joe Smith, a principal at the Athens-based preservation design firm Architectural Collaborative, is teaching a very successful Building Materials Conservation class this fall for the second year and is leading an effort last spring to document the Old Athens Jail in Cobbham.

Dr. Katie Marages has joined our faculty as an Assistant Professor, coming to us from a postdoctoral fellowship at Emory after having earned a PhD at George Washington University under preservationist and architectural historian Richard Longstreth.

Student Updates

2022-2023 Graduates

Rachel Christian
Rebecca Croft
Shannon Graham

W. Aubrey Newby
Megan McPherson
Shelby Reed



Shannon Graham and Aubrey Newby at the Graduate Commencement Ceremony in Sanford Stadium on May 11, 2023

Summer Internships

Last summer all of our students participated in internships or began new jobs. Katie Mino and Jeffrey Bussey were both awarded internships through the National Council for Preservation Education. Mino spent the summer researching historic structures at Mount Rainier National Park, and Bussey spent the summer performing field-based preservation work on the Channel Islands.

Back on the east coast, Shelby McWhirter lived on Cumberland Island with Conservation Legacy. Serving on the Urban Archaeology Corps, she performed archaeological survey and excavation work. Cameron Nesmith worked for the Charleston Preservation Society. He used GIS to create databases for mapping projects, and he conducted interviews to create an oral history for the Black Historic Business District.

In Athens, Inga McGuire worked with the Carl Vinson Institute for Government. She researched federal roads in the Ft. Benning and Columbus area as well as Lafayette's 1824 visit in the area utilizing GIS. Inga presented her research at UGA's Institute for Resilient Infrastructure Systems (IRIS) 2023 Conference.

Recently Defended MHP Theses

Megan McPherson analyzed current and prospective landscape conditions at historically black state parks.

Rachel Christian's thesis focused on the interpretation for Morris Island's inaccessible lighthouse.

Shannon Graham completed an analysis of current interpretive strategies at former sites of enslavement in Savannah, Georgia.

Aubrey Newby's thesis studied the life and career of one of Prof. John Waters' colleagues, John Linley.

Scholarship Recipients

All six members of the the first-year cohort received scholarships at the CED Award Banquet in April.

Jeffrey Bussey.....	John W Linley Graduate Award
Janeth Garcia-Torres.....	Environment and Deisgn Scholarship Fund
Laura Leigh Haga.....	William Lawrence Manning Knox Scholarship
Inga McGuire.....	CED Alumni Association Graduate Fellowship
Shelby McWhirter.....	Nettleton Travel Scholarship
Mel Staton.....	Environment and Design Scholarship Fund

Project Updates

Unspoken/Elizabeth Jones

Elizabeth Jones' work to preserve the Zion Hill Cemetery in Monroe, Georgia is still ongoing. Recently, her historic preservation work at the site has been featured in Stephanie Calabrese's film UNSPOKEN, which highlights racial injustice in the area. The film won the award for the Audience Choice Documentary at the Macon Film Festival in 2022 and has received official selections to film festivals across the country.

Brooklyn Community

In Spring 2022, Professor Goetcheus' Cultural Resource Assessment class began documenting the history of the Brooklyn Community in Athens. The Spring 2023 CRA class continued that work by completing architectural surveys for another section of Brooklyn. Working with the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, students spoke with church members, toured the neighborhood, and researched the history of the community in Athens. The semester ended with the class presenting their findings to the church and discussing future research.



Professor Goetcheus' CRA class with members of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Athens, Georgia.

Madison-Morgan Conservancy By: Janeth Garcia-Torres

Madison was established 1809 and flourished into a stagecoach stop and in-town residence for planters. Most of Madison's antebellum architecture survived due to Mayor Joshua Hill who developed a gentleman's agreement with General Sherman's detachment. The turn of the century would bring Victorian Style architecture in the shape of commercial and residential buildings. Madison is now focused on respecting its local sense of place and style by guiding twentieth-century development away from its "insensitive and sprawl-oriented" nature and towards one that highlights its historic identity.

The Madison- Morgan Conservancy has focused on the restoration of various historic resources throughout Morgan County. As expressed in their mission statement their goal is to, "provide public education on conservation matters and to protect and enhance the heritage and quality of life of the residents of Morgan County, by preserving historic sites, greenspace, farmland, and timberland." The Madison-Morgan Conservancy has worked to achieve their mission through various preservation projects. Each project has used a unique combination of tools and resources that have culminated into the success of Madison's downtown revitalization.

To learn more about these tools and resources in greater detail see *Preservation As A Tool For Small Town Revitalization*. Professor Reap's Graduate Assistant, Janeth Garcia-Torres, composed this pamphlet this semester and it discusses projects including the Chero-Cola ghost signage, Star Drug, Amici, Town Park, and the Central of Georgia Depot.




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https://ugeorgia.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9MovPakRrE3eyjA

We appreciate your feedback!

**If you would like to make a gift in support of the MHP Program,
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In Memory of John Caldwell Waters
October 13, 1936 - August 29, 2022

<http://www.ced.uga.edu>