

SPRING 2019

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

MASTER OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION



College of Environment + Design
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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WELCOME TO THE SPRING 2019 EDITION OF THE MHP ALUMNI NEWSLETTER!

Athens is in full bloom, the sun is out, and summer break is fast approaching. Campus has taken on a new energy as our months of winter and rain seem to have finally gone away. Since the last newsletter, the MHP program has been full of energy as well. From our bi-annual Charleston field study to working with Athens-Clarke County on a potential new downtown historic district, our students have kept busy gaining hands-on experience as they learn the field of historic preservation. As you'll see inside, our alumni are also always on the move with exciting new jobs, accolades, and published works. We hope you'll join us in celebrating all the accomplishments of our students and alumni as the College of Environment and Design reaches its 50th Anniversary in the 2019-2020 school year. Stay tuned for more information!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CE+D CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

The College of Environment and Design will be celebrating 50 years as its own school (1969-2019) next year. Join us for special lectures, symposia, exhibits, and celebrations throughout the academic year. Keynote speakers will be Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General, who will speak on preserving global heritage in times of war and conflict, and Adam Gopnik, best-selling author and writer for *The New Yorker* magazine, who will address reconnecting the arts and sciences. Details about events and opportunities will be available on the CED website.

HOT CORNER, HOT TOPIC

The Mayor and Commission approved a demolition moratorium on the west side of downtown Athens to provide time to study the area and write a designation report for a new historic district. This area, between Hull and Pulaski Streets, includes the historic Hot Corner, transportation-related buildings such as Creature Comforts, and music venues such as the 40 Watt Club. Sentiment excluded it from the 2006 designation of the east side of downtown, but now the time is ripe to revisit the area and ensure sensitive future development. Professor Cari Goetcheus' Spring 2019 Cultural Resource Assessment class is joining the effort by researching the African American history of Hot Corner and surveying the properties.

SHPO HOSTS SARAH MARSOM

In January, the Student Historic Preservation Organization hosted heritage consultant and speaker Sarah Marsom. Known as the founder of the Tiny Activist Project, Marsom spoke to the students about broadening the reach of preservation, especially to engage children and uncover stories less often told. Marsom has spoken throughout the country and at the National Trust PastForward Conference. In 2018, she was recognized by the Trust as an honoree on the inaugural "40 Under 40: People Saving Places" list, and the winner of the American Express Aspire Award for emerging preservation leaders.

DENMARK IN THE DAY

Our very own Denmark Hall made an appearance in the 2018 presentation of "Yesterday's Vision: Warren Manning's Master Plan 1925" by Steven Brown and Beth Whitlock of the Athens Historical Society. In the early 1920s, Athens' landscape was relatively barren and the city's infrastructure wasn't equipped for the rise of automobile traffic. It was reported that on February 19, 1924, the Athens Chamber of Commerce held a forum for "nearly two hundred loyal and enthusiastic citizens of Clarke County" at Denmark Hall to "formulate plans looking forward towards the further development of Athens and Clarke County."

View the full presentation [here](#).



Photo courtesy of the Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library. See more historic photos of Denmark Hall [here](#).

CROATIA, HERE WE COME

Professors Reap and Brown will be spending a three-week Maymester on the Dalmatian Coast of Croatia with 20 students. In conjunction with UGA's Lamar Dodd School of Art and partner University of Zadar, the program will offer two courses in art and preservation. Studies will be based out of Zadar, located on the Adriatic Sea. With everything from 9th century churches and a Roman forum to 21st century urban sprawl, the city promises no shortage of beauty and learning opportunities for the Maymester participants. Dr. Igor Kulenovic from the University of Zadar spent a week in January touring UGA and speaking about Croatian heritage in anticipation of the trip.

A PLAN FOR WINTERVILLE

Professor Scott Nesbit's Fall 2018 Preservation Planning class gained hands-on experience creating a preservation plan for nearby Winterville. Originally a railroad stop six miles from Athens, Winterville has managed to retain its historic charm and setting despite Clarke County's continuous development. To assist the city's newly formed Historic Preservation Commission, the class surveyed all resources over 40 years old, formulated a plan, and presented it at a commission hearing.

View the plan students created [here](#).



SALEM CAMPGROUND REVIVAL

Professor Cari Goetcheus' Fall 2018 Cultural Landscape Documentation class brought together undergraduate and graduate students in the Historic Preservation, Landscape Architecture, Environmental Planning, and Forestry departments for service learning at Salem Campground in Covington, GA. Established in 1828, the Campground includes historic cottages and a hotel centered around a tabernacle built in 1854. Students spent a night at the campground to document the built and natural landscape, and created recommendations for sensitive expansion. The semester concluded with presenting the findings to Salem's board of trustees. Next, a charrette being organized by Jennifer Lewis ('02) with UGA's Center for Community Design and Preservation will take those recommendations one step closer to implementation. Salem celebrates its 191st camp meeting this year, and was featured on the Georgia Public Broadcast program, *Saving Grace*. View the episode [here](#).

ALUMNI UPDATES

Scott ('96) and Jen Messer ('97) were featured in the *Red & Black's* article, "Cupid on campus: A match made in historic preservation." The couple met as classmates in 1993, married in 1996, and have remained close to the program through Scott's role as UGA's Director of Historic Preservation and Jen's role as the CED's Director of Development and Alumni Relations. Said Jen, "... the people who were involved when we were courting — or whatever you want to call it — are still involved in our lives." Read the full article [here](#).



David Arning ('04, above) is beginning a new role as Director of Development for J. A. Murphy Group, LLC, a Knoxville-based real estate development and investment firm specializing in Class A luxury multifamily properties across the United States. Prior to this position, David was Senior Vice President of Development for LHP Capital, LLC, a developer, owner and manager of multifamily housing with a focus on affordable developments.

Providence Preservation Society (PPS) Executive Director **Brent Runyon ('05)** was featured in the *East Side Monthly* for his leadership and approach to balancing new development with historic properties. Blending preservation with thoughtful planning and development, Runyon has helped PPS re-establish its place in the conversation about Providence's future.

"To find a voice has meant building coalitions. It's a good role for us to play as a convener of ideas. It felt natural, like something we should be doing," said Runyon. Read the full article [here](#).

An article written by **Christine McCauley Watts ('06)** discussing the threat facing historic farmland by the construction of a new substation and Facebook Transmission Line was published by the *Saporta Report*. As executive director of the Madison-Morgan Conservancy, Christine's role balances both preservation and conservation of historic farmland. Read the full article [here](#).



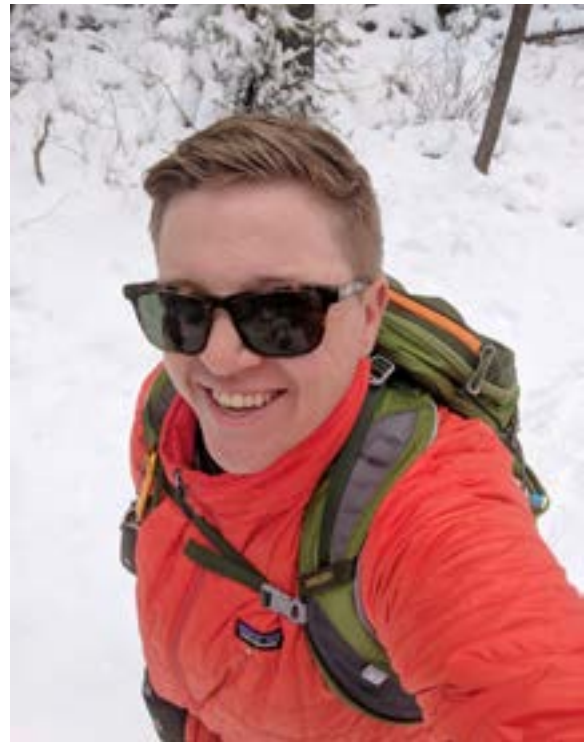
Ashley Regan Baumann ('07) and her husband Erik welcomed baby Mirren Celeste Baumann (above) to their family on September 19, 2018.

Sean Stucker ('09) is beginning a new role specializing in historic plaster, stucco, and masonry restoration with Dillion Construction Services. Sean came into the MHP program with nearly a decade of construction experience, and is now heading back to the hands-on side of preservation after working for ten years with non-profits Preservation Durham and Historic Columbus.

Elizabeth Elliott began a new role as the Downtown Development Technical Specialist with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. She is the preservation and rural community expert for Main Street cities, specifically advocating for South Georgia.

Caitlin Plesher has joined fellow alumna **Rebekah Helfgot ('18)** as an Architectural Historian at Edwards Pittman Environmental, Inc. In her new role, Caitlin spends time both in the Atlanta office and out in the field conducting Section 106 reviews.

Bethany Moore ('18, below) moved back to her home state of Missouri to become a Preservation Planner for the City of St. Louis. She's enjoying work as a government employee as she likes being heavily engaged with citizens, collaborating with their historic districts as they write their own design standards. "Preservation is really the most powerful at the local level and I love working with the citizens to protect the cultural resources that belong us, the city of St. Louis. It's nice to work with people who care about protecting what they have."



Congratulations to **Mary Scyles English ('17, above)** for being named a finalist for the 2018 Murtagh-Graham Prize by US/ICOMOS for her thesis research, *Private Management of Cultural Landscapes: Challenges at Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area*. Mary is a passionate preservation and conservation professional who specializes in the documentation, investigation, and assessment of cultural landscapes. Following her graduation from the MHP program, Mary began her career as an intern with the National Park Service's Southeast Regional Office Cultural Landscape Program. She has spent the past six months working as a Cultural Resource Technician in Grand Teton National Park, and continues working with community organizations and engaging with conservation and preservation challenges at all levels of government.

When selecting a topic for her thesis research, Mary wanted to highlight a rural cultural landscape that she knew from her time living in northern Georgia. She selected the Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area to highlight the role of private companies in the management of public lands. As Mary developed her understanding of cultural landscapes, specifically those on public lands, she sought to integrate her love of place with professional aspiration to engage with federal policy and cultural resource management.

Through this process, Mary was able to translate the information she collected during her research into her positions with the National Park Service. Without partnerships between private entities and our national parks, forests, and lands, the successful management of cultural resources would not be possible.

Want to share your news, get updates from the CED, or collaborate with the MHP program? E-mail [Donna Gabriel](mailto:Donna.Gabriel@ced.org) to get involved, and join our [LinkedIn](#) group for preservation news and job postings.

PASTFORWARD 2018, SAN FRANCISCO

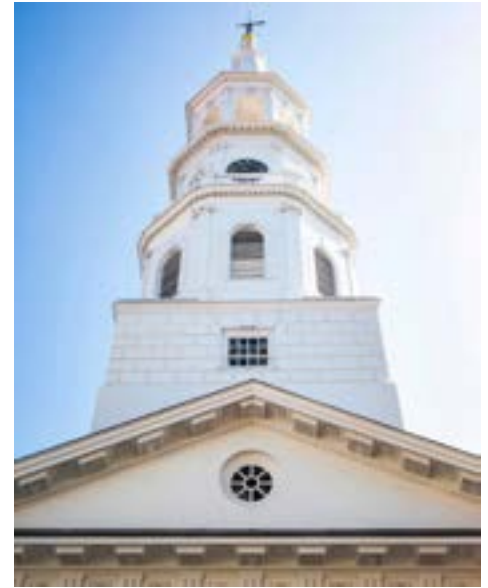
Students **Caitlin Plesher** and **Mackenzie Carroll** attended the National Trust for Historic Preservation's PastForward Conference in San Francisco last November. Of the presentations, "I loved getting to hear about the progress of the National Votes for Women Trail. All of the hard work and preparation they're putting in for the centennial of women's suffrage in 2020 is really inspiring," said Caitlin.

"The speech given by and the discussion panel Terry Tempest Williams participated in was one of my favorite sessions. It's the one that immediately stands out after so many months down the line. Terry Tempest Williams is a conversation advocate and author who came to PastForward to discuss the current threats cultural landscapes face," said Mackenzie.

Mackenzie and Caitlin caught up with alumni **Carter Burns ('18)** and **Chase Klugh ('18)** of Historic Natchez Foundation at the conference's opening ceremony held at the Palace of the Fine Arts (top left photo).



(Photos of San Francisco by Caitlin Plesher, November 2018.)



CHARLESTON FIELD STUDY 2019

Charleston is a preservationist's happy place. This year's field study included visits to old favorites like Drayton Hall and the Aiken-Rhett house, as well as new experiences such as the Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church. The first day, students toured Historic Charleston Foundation's (HCF) two house museums to compare the approaches of preservation versus restoration. Students then engaged in a Q&A session with HCF's CEO and MHP alumnus, **Winslow Hastie ('99)**, to learn what it takes to run a robust non-profit. On day two, a board member and historian for the Mother Emanuel Church toured the students and explained how from tragedy comes the responsibility to educate and speak to the congregation's rich history. Later, preservation planners from the city government explained their role in ensuring a compromise between smart growth and preservation regulations. The field study concluded with Drayton Hall, a perennial favorite. Though MHP students visit the former plantation each time they tour Charleston, a new visitor center and archaeological findings brought refreshed discussion on what it takes to enrich the visitor experience and deepen understanding of the nearly 300-year-old house and grounds. Between site visits, students had plenty of time to meander the streets of the Holy City and soak in what is truly a living laboratory for preservation.

(Photos of Charleston by English Hinton and Mackenzie Carroll. February 2019.)

JAMES REAP WINS ANN WEBSTER SMITH AWARD FROM US/ICOMOS

Professor James Reap has been awarded the [Ann Webster Smith Award](#) for extraordinary and sustained achievement in support of conserving the world's cultural heritage by US/ICOMOS, the United States Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites. The Ann Webster Smith Award is US/ICOMOS' s highest honor for service.

A network of experts, ICOMOS is a professional association that works for the conservation and protection of cultural heritage places around the world. ICOMOS promotes the application of theory, methodology, and scientific techniques to the conservation of the architectural and archaeological heritage. Founded in Warsaw, Poland in 1965, and now headquartered in Paris, ICOMOS evaluates, monitors, and advises entities such as UNESCO concerning World Heritage Sites, including those threatened by war and natural disasters. ICOMOS has more than 10,000 members in over 150 countries across the globe.

According to US/ICOMOS president Douglas C. Comer, "James Reap has been a wise counselor to US/ICOMOS and ICOMOS, and a stalwart member of both. By his work and his personality, he has provided an invaluable connection among our own United States national committee, ICOMOS International, and the full array of ICOMOS scientific committees. He has the rare gift of being able to provide straightforward and clear observations in ways that lay out paths for cooperation and progress."

Reap, who directs the Master of Historic Preservation program, is a former member of the Board of Trustees and a Fellow of US/ICOMOS. He is also a member of the Cultural Property Advisory Committee of the U.S. Department of State, Secretary General and past President of the Committee on Legal, Administrative and Financial Issues of ICOMOS; a member of the board of directors of the United States Committee of the Blue Shield; and a past board member of the Lawyers' Committee for Cultural Heritage Preservation.

Reap has worked on preservation issues in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and the Caribbean, and has taught heritage conservation not only in the United States but in Russia and in Jordan as a Fulbright Scholar. In 2016, he was appointed by President Obama to a three-year term on the Cultural Property Advisory Committee. Reap holds a JD from the University of Georgia and a BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Professor Reap spent a busy two weeks in October traveling China and Korea with ICOMOS. First, he presented in Korea at a conference titled "Comparative Perspectives: Contemporary Issues on Law, Religion, Heritage, and Conservation." He then traveled to China to give two presentations for the 7th Annual ICOMOS Wuhan Crossover Forum (above) and participated in a learning exchange between two Chinese cities, Wuhan and Suzhou. While in China, he was interviewed by schoolchildren practicing English (right).



INTERVIEW WITH FIRST-YEAR STUDENT JAHANVI SINGHA

Where are you from?

I am from Gujarat, India. It's on the west coast. My home town is Vadodara, which is an old city with a lot of heritage. There are a few UNESCO sites there that date back quite a long ways. It has one of the largest coastlines on the western sides of India.

Tell me about your undergraduate degree.

I have my bachelor's degree from the D.C. Patel School of Architecture, APIED in Gujarat. During the five-year program, I realized I was more interested in the history of architecture than I was in designing. I have always been a distinguished student, especially in the history of architecture. We have exams at the end of the year in India and I always scored high on architectural history. I also studied conservation while in India.

How did you get develop an interest in historic preservation?

I have always considered history to be more than monuments and archives. It's an emotion, a feeling. History is the only link to our past, and a bridge to your future. I would really like to understand the technologies and the theories to preserve our history for a better tomorrow. My home was built by our grandfather and it's now over 60 years old. I know how attached my grandfather is to his house. He couldn't imagine not being in his house. This was the key that made me understand the importance of historic preservation. India has a rich heritage with multiple cultures. There are monuments in India that need recognition but there are many issues around conservation there. I want to study historic preservation and then go back to India to save these buildings.

How did you choose the University of Georgia?

The University of Georgia is known worldwide for its research. I was attracted to this because my main focus is on research and the program really fit what I wanted.

What are your goals while in the program?

India has a lot of heritage that is not flourishing to its maximum potential. I would like to understand and learn about the techniques to help to preserve heritage. My aim is to understand the ethics of preservation so that I can implement them towards a greater cause in India.



Do you have a favorite historic building?

Well it's not exactly one building. I enjoy history and I am very fond of many sites with Roman, Greek, and Egyptian architecture. Interestingly, I also enjoy Mesopotamian architecture and buildings with Native American influences. To pin-point one building I would say the ruins of the Harappan civilization by the river Indus in the Northwest regions of South Asia. I am always amazed by how the whole city was built, its right-angled streets, the great bath, the stone houses- everything. The whole civilization is laid out so beautifully.

(Interview by first-year student Maxwell Nosbisch.)

Janhanvi (right) with Maxwell (middle) and Elyse Hoganson (left) dressing up at the Nathaniel Russell House while on the Charleston field study.

