

SPRING 2020

Newsletter

MASTER OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION



College of Environment + Design
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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Welcome to the Spring 2020 Edition of the MHP Alumni Newsletter

Saying this Spring semester has shaped up to be unique would be a definite understatement. Despite the current situation, the efforts of the Master of Historic Preservation program continue – widely from the comfort of our own homes. While the beginning of the year saw MHP traditions such as the Savannah field study and defense preparation, students and faculty are now deep in the uncharted territory of university-wide online instruction due to the precautions to avoid the spread of COVID-19. It is true that these times present us with a wide array of challenges, it is comforting to reflect on the good work being done by preservationists near and far. Although the University of Georgia’s North Campus won’t see much activity this Spring, please join us in looking at the exciting news from our program and its incredible alumni.

What's Happening

Zooming Around Class

As of March 30, 2020, the University of Georgia moved all instruction online. Classes and programs will be carried out this way for the duration of the Spring semester. In the face of the COVID-19 outbreak, UGA extended its spring break for two weeks as faculty and students devised plans for this new format of instruction. While the adjustment has not been easy, the faculty of the College of Environment and Design are focused on providing excellent instruction and meeting course goals despite the difficulties presented in this situation. For many classes, students and professors are meeting via Zoom for video call-based lectures. Although many field trips, projects, and events have been canceled, maintaining contact with classmates and peers has kept the spirit of the program high as we finish out the last few weeks of the semester.

Thesis Defense Curveball

The nerves around a thesis defense can already be a challenge – this semester, our students had to face another. In addition to online classes, MHP candidates who were scheduled to defend their thesis this semester also had to utilize web-based tools. In fact, all College of Environment and Design defenses scheduled for after spring break were hosted online. While this was an unexpected

difficulty for everyone, students rose to the occasion to deliver their presentations to their committee and the public online. CED students were encouraged to sit in on Zoom calls to gain some insight on thesis presentations and the array of interesting topics being researched. Making the best of the situation has become a common practice as our fantastic MHP candidates tie a bow on their studies at UGA.

CE+D in the Islands

Over spring break, Professor Cari Goetcheus led a team of students in the Historic Preservation and Landscape Architecture programs on a project for the National Parks Service in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The trip was funded by an NPS grant to assist in the recovery of cultural resources from hurricane damage. Thanks to Professor Goetcheus's connections to the NPS, the team worked with staff to document little-known historic landscape features at Annaberg, a 19th century Danish sugar plantation on St. John. Students documented sites such as aqueduct ruins, boundary walls, ruins of slave housing, and gravesites. The team cut their way through thick vegetation and hiked steep terrain to be the first to capture many of these resources. The efficient work of the team garnered visits from multiple NPS personnel including the Park Superintendent who listened to the CED group's feedback on interpretation of the discoveries. Given it was break, the students also enjoyed a variety of camping, swimming, and sightseeing all over St. John. As Professor Goetcheus puts it, "not a bad way to spend Spring Break."



From left to right: Natalie Henderson (BLA), Braden Meadows (BLA), Emily Rogers (BLA), Megan McPherson (MHP), Cari Goetcheus, Seth Boles (MHP), Hadden Powell (BLA), Elise Langston (BLA)

Faculty Updates

Scott Nesbit

Congratulations to Dr. Scott Nesbit who was promoted with tenure to Associate Professor. Dr. Nesbit continues to work in the fields of digital and public history with a particular interest in spaces and stories told in the American South. In addition to class instruction, he also is continuing his efforts in the investigations of relationships between universities and slavery. This spring, Dr. Nesbit led a training session for future docents of a tour of UGA's North Campus. The tour is geared toward teaching students the African American history of the campus and the importance of these narratives in Athens.



Cari Goetcheus (left) and Dr. Scott Nesbit (right)

Cari Goetcheus

Congratulations as well to Cari Goetcheus who was promoted to Full Professor. Professor Goetcheus continues to instruct students with her expertise in cultural landscape documentation and management. With her guidance, the Spring 2020 Cultural Resource

Assessment class is aiding in a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Whitehall Mill Village in Athens. The project was brought to Goetcheus by interested members of the community.

Daniela Jelinčić

This spring, Dr. Jelinčić continued her exciting research as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Georgia. As a part of her research in "Sensory Stimuli and their Impact on Basic Emotions in the Experience Economy," she conducted a series of tests with UGA students to gather data. The goal of her research is to develop sensory stimuli that can aid in making museums and historic sites interesting and appealing to a wide variety of audiences. She commented, "As much as historic preservation plays an important role in cultural tourism, it is not enough in today's competitive and globalized tourism supply. It is experiences in and around historic buildings that provide a unique selling point for cultural assets." This semester marked an important point in the development of her data.

The research included cooperation with Lamar Dodd School of Arts where Professor Mac Balantine's students designed a set of six visual stimuli for six basic emotions. It also included cooperation with Paula Reynaldi, an Athens-based artist who provided another set of six visual stimuli. Professor Emily Koh's students of composition at the Hugh Hodgson School of Arts designed the set of six aural stimuli. A special cooperation was established with Dr. Alan Stewart, a psychologist at the College of Education where the measurements have been done. Twenty-five people aged 14-81 participated in the experiment, some of them also the MHP students.



Dr. Jelinčić, Fulbright Scholar from Croatia

James Reap

On April 18, World Heritage Day, Professor Reap was a participant in an online international conference, *Shared Future, Shared Heritage*, organized by colleagues from the Wuhan Research Society for Shared Built Heritage, co-sponsored by the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research-Asia and Pacific (WHITRAP). Emerging from two month's quarantine, Wuhan colleagues continue their focus on elements of shared culture in the built environment. Professor Reap has participated in a number of workshops and conferences in Wuhan and last summer Erika Shroeder (MLA + HP Certificate) had an internship with the Wuhan Research Society.

John Waters

MHP Professor Emeritus John Waters was a featured speaker at the Georgia Museum of Art's Tenth Henry Green Symposium on the Decorative Arts. His talk regarded the architecture of UGA's campus and other buildings in Athens. Additionally, he has approached the Georgia Press to reprint his book, *Maintaining A Sense of Place: A Citizen's Guide to Community Preservation*. This comes as an addition to the development of his new book, *Preservation Odyssey: A History of Preservation in Athens*.



Alumni Updates

Alex Green ('16, below) is continuing her work for Sandvick Architects, a firm in Cleveland, Ohio which specializes in historic rehabilitation. She works as a preservation specialist and engages in archival research, historic documentation, client relations, and field work. The firm works closely with the NPS and the Ohio SHPO on tax credit projects and National Register of Historic Places nominations.



Yoldez Halleb continues her efforts abroad in a cohort for the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network Youth. She said the cohort "brings together 128 young fellows from around the world and provides them with the tools, platforms and guiding frameworks for action, and connects them with leading urban development experts and practitioners." She was also in Spain assisting in a conference geared toward the empowerment of civil society in the safeguarding of cultural heritage during times of conflict. The conference was funded by ALIPH and included representatives from the cultural heritage communities of Yemen, Syria, Iraq, and Libya. However, her time was cut short as she left Spain due to concerns from the situations brought about by COVID-19.

Seth Wilcher ('04) welcomed their son, Grady, into the Wilcher Family last April. Additionally, he moved from Denver, Colorado to Raleigh, North Carolina for his new role in the Federal Highway Administration. There he provides environmental oversight and assistance to the North Carolina Department of Transportation for roadway projects. Before leaving Denver, he caught up with other MHPs for dinner at the National Trust Conference for a small reunion.



From left to right: Liz Blackwell, Seth Wilcher, Ethiel Garlington, Chad Blackwell, and Brent Runyon

Kit Candler ('15) accepted a position as Special Project Coordinator with the National Monuments Foundation and Millennium Gate Museum in Atlanta. The Foundation and Museum aim to preserve and interpret history, art, and philanthropic heritage in Georgia.

Lisa Demarais ('19) began work at the Environmental Corporation of America as an Architectural Historian and Project Manager. ECA is an environmental, ecological, and cultural resource consulting firm who assist in related projects all across the United States.

Ramona Bartos (MHP/JD '02) continues in her role Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer at the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. In April, she was a featured speaker at the National Trust Community Investment Corporation's conference of industry and preservation leaders discussing how the federal Historic Tax Credit can support revitalization efforts and those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Her discussion was headed under "Coronavirus Response: The Historic Tax Credit as an Economic Recovery Tool."

Raffi Andonian ('13) moved from Santa Fe, NM to St. Louis, MO. He works as an Agent and Financial Services Professional at New York Life and continues to achieve excellent professional standards, qualifying him for Million Dollar Round Table, a highly acclaimed trade association for financial advisors. He developed his MHP thesis into a book, *Creating Space for Conflicted Histories: Remembering the Atomic Bomb*, which hit as a #1 best seller on multiple categories on Amazon during its launch in January. He also has launched a website which endeavors to serve as an outlet for community service, open community dialogue, and associated projects. You can learn more at [here](#).



Raffi Andonian and his wife, Nicole

Lindsey Kerr (MHP '09) is continuing her work as a manager for the Trust of Governor Island. This year, she co-authored an article with Scott Aker in *Public Garden*, the official Journal of the American Gardens Association, on the collaborations to preserve plants and their impacts. You can find it [here](#).

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

Savannah Field Study 2020

While many exciting field trips and programs have been canceled for the semester, the MHP program did continue its bi-annual trip to Savannah, GA for its coastal field study. The three-day trip was led by Dr. Wayde Brown and gave students and faculty an inside look behind some of the preservation powerhouses in the city. On the first day, we met with preservation planners from the public and private sectors who discussed the uniqueness of the resources in Savannah. We also visited the Isaiah Davenport House, the Savannah Colonial Cemetery, and the Marriot Power Plant Development Project on River Street. The next day, we took a tour with Jamal Touré of Day Clean Journeys of the multifaceted African American history of Savannah. Later in the day, we visited the Tybee Lighthouse and Fort Pulaski to gain some insight into the environmental difficulties these resources face. The last day, we visited Bonaventure Cemetery and Wormsloe State Historic Site. Outside of scheduled visits, students enjoyed their time out and about seeing what Georgia's first city has to offer.



Interview with Katherine Malone-France

Katherine Malone-France ('96) is the chief preservation officer of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She currently lives in Washington, D.C. and is working on several projects with the National Trust. She sat down to talk with us about what she's up to and her time at UGA.

Are there any projects the National Trust is working on right now that you are particularly excited about?

I could talk about everything! We are working with partners around the country to work on how to improve federal historic renovation tax credits from the perspectives of the State Historic Preservation Officers, the National Parks Service, and the private sector. We're bringing all those groups together to improve this incredibly impactful program that has created jobs and investment in historic buildings. We want to make sure the program is as strong as it can be.

I am also really excited about a program at our historic sites. It is going to develop prototypes that look at how historic buildings and landscapes are more resilient and environmentally sustainable. Rather than freeze those places in time, we can use these landscapes to model sustainability in a way that demonstrates historic preservation as a critically important tool.

Can you speak on what you took away from the MHP program at UGA?

I became focused on Georgia's program because of the landscape aspect of it and also because Athens is awesome. It represents something that seemed so different to me that it was in, at the time, the School of Environment and Design. I loved that idea. It benefited me tremendously in my preservation career in the way thinking about the process holistically was so ingrained in Georgia's program. It's not just about buildings. I did not understand how valuable that was until I was out of school

Do you have a story or experience from a class that really stuck with you from your time at UGA?

Oh man, Alan Stovall's Rural Landscape Preservation, what do you say? It was fantastic. Running around the woods learning to read a landscape the way that Alan taught us to was such a mind-opening way to think about



Photo taken from the National Trust for Historic Preservation

place. It ingrained in me this way of approaching large landscapes – looking at cultural landscapes holistically. Also, it was just fun to run around in the woods!

Do you have any advice for students who plan on doing preservation work?

In school, especially at Georgia, embrace that holistic thinking about buildings, landscapes, and communities. Take all the opportunities that you're given to really engage with doing that work. Part of it is the land grant aspect; part of it is just the culture of the College of Environment and Design. There are so many opportunities for doing real, practical work. Do it when you are surrounded by people with so much experience and expertise. Do the work! I know that's Cari's ethos and I'm glad that culture continues at Georgia.

