

PREPARED TO SHAPE OUR WORLD

2020

SPRING COMMENCEMENT



College of
Environment + Design
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



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2019

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BELLAFIORE, VINCENT
BELLUE, MEGAN
BELOW, ECKHARDT HERMAN
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BENNET, PAUL
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BRAY, WILLIAM
BREEDEN, JAMES
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CANTOR, STEVEN
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COYLE, GREGG A
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FITZPATRICK, CLYDE
FOX, ANDREW
FRASER, LARRY A
FRAZIER, JOHN B
GABRIEL, DONNA
GERLACH, FREDERICK
GIBBS, STEPHANIE
GOETCHEUS, CARI
GOGO, MELISSA

GOLDBERG, LEAH PINE
GOLDSCHMIDT, LAVONNE
GRIZZLE, MARSHA
GUTHRIE, JAMES GRAYSON
KENT, DEANNA
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HALL, DALE A
HALL, S. GEORGIA HARRISON
HANNULA, JOHN KARL
HARTEL, DUDLEY R
HENDRIX, NICKI
HILL, ROBERT
HIRT, SONIA
HOPE, DANIEL
HOWARD, R VINCENT
HOWETT, CATHERINE M
HUNTER, MARYCAROL
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JAEGER, DALE G M
JAEGER, ROBERT A
JOHNSON, CHRISTINE
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KANE, JANET
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KIDD, SUSAN AUDREY
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KNOFF, JAMES M
KOEPEKE, MARGUERITE
KOH, JU-SUCK
KOONS, JOSHUA
LAHAIE, BRIAN J
LAUBMANN, WILLIAM
LAUGHLIN, CHRISTINE
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LAWLISS, LUCY A
LEE, SUNGKYUNG
LEWIS, JENNIFER
LEVY, CLAUDIA
LINK, JANE
LINLEY, JOHN WILLIAM
LOFTON, AUDRA
LONGENECKER, DONNIE
LONNEE, WILLIAM
MACDONALD, ERIC A
MACDOWELL, CHRIS
MACGREGOR, PAUL
MACHADO, ELEONORA
MALONE, CONNIE
MANN, WILLIAM A
MARTIN, CECILE L K
MARTIN, DONNA
MATHES, LARA D
MELCHER, KATHERINE
MESSER, JENNIFER
MESSER, SCOTT
METHVIN, HENRY
MIHALKO, CHERYL
MITTS, CHRISTINE
MOORE, ROGER D
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MORGAN, TERRI
MORRISON, DARREL G
MOSER, ANN
MYERS, JULIE ANN
NADENICEK, DANIEL
NDUBISI, FORSTER
NESBIT, SCOTT

NICHOLLS, ROBERT
NICHOLS, DAVID B
NORMAN, LATOYA
O'BRIEN, MAUREEN
ORLAND, BRIAN
OWENS, HUBERT BOND
OWENS, JANE ANN
PARDUE, DOUGLAS
PARKER, HENRY
PETERSON, DOUGLAS
PICKENS, WILLIAM T
POOLE, VICKIE
PRICE, WENDY LYNN
RAMOS, STEPHEN
RAMSEY, WILLIAM
REAP, JAMES K
REINBERGER, MARK
RIVERO, ROSANNA
ROACH, MARTHA
ROBERTS, MELISSA
ROBINSON, NANCY
ROSS, SARAH V
RUNDELL, DEANA
SARMIENTO, FAUSTO
SAWHILL, RONALD
SELLERS, GEORGE
SHOEMAKER, RENE
SIMS, MICHAEL
SKIBA, LESLYE
SMITH, ALISON L
SMITH-SANCLARE, SHELBY
SNEAD, ARON
SNIFF, DANIEL
SOSA LOPEZ, OSCAR
SPOONER, DAVID
STALEY, DONALD J
STEED, BOYD CURTIS
STEFFENS, ASHLEY
STOVALL, ALLEN
TAHASH, ROSE
THOMAS, A CHESTER
THOMAS, RONALD
TILLER, JOSH
TRUDEAU, PAUL
TUFTS, MELISSA
TUNNELL, SPENCER
VERMA, AMITABH
VICK, ALFRED
VINSON, RANDY
VOGEL, LISA D
WAHL, MICHAEL
WALKER, ROBERT BURKE
WALL, TILDA
WALSH, TIM
WALTON, ANDRA
WASSERMAN, JUDITH
WATERS, JOHN C.
WEATHERLY, NEAL
WECKWERTH, HELMUT FRITZ
WEINBERG, SCOTT
WEIS, HERMANN
WESTMACOTT, RICHARD
WILKINSON, DRANE
WILSON, GRANVILLE
WRIGHT, ALVIN OWEN
YILMAZ, UMIT
YOUNG, ASHLEY
YOUNG, ERICA
YOUNG, PAUL
ZEICHNER, LAUREN



OPENING REMARKS

Sonia Hirt, Dean

GRADUATION CONVOCATION

Speaker: Chris Hite, BLA '87
President of Dix.Hite+Partners

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

BACHELOR OF LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE

Brad Davis

MASTER OF LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE

Georgia Harrison Hall

MASTER OF HISTORIC
PRESERVATION

James Reap

MASTER OF URBAN
PLANNING AND DESIGN

Umit Yilmaz

Online Commencement
Spring 2020



A MESSAGE FROM DEAN SONIA HIRT

2020

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TRANSCRIPTION OF DEAN HIRT'S SPEECH / OPENING REMARKS

Online Commencement, Spring 2020

Dear graduates of the College of Environment and Design, family, friends, loved ones, and colleagues,
Thank you for joining us for this brief video presentation. This was supposed to be a wonderful and of course in person celebration of the wonderful achievements of our students. It didn't turn out that way and I know you're disappointed and so are we. Still, I want to extend my sincere congratulations to all our college graduates who managed to succeed in such adverse conditions.

One thing that I have personally learned from this ordeal is that humanity in general have somehow convinced ourselves that our intricate economic and spatial and social networks are somehow solid and that they can persist. And I think one thing that we did learn is actually that they are very vulnerable. So, if we are going to thrive and not just survive on our planet and if our planet is to survive and thrive as well, which is very important because, as I'm sure you know, good planets are very hard to find, if we are going to survive this challenge we have to actually bring our forces together. There is, simply, lots and lots of room for improvement.

But I am very confident that you are actually part of the solution. We have a big improvement project in front of us and I know that you can do it. And we can't do it without you. People of my generation and previous generations apparently we did not prepare sufficiently, so you are the one, and I'm sorry if this sounds a terrible cliché, are going to have to save the world. And I'm very confident that you can do it for several reasons.

Our college champions the values of resiliency and sustainability for many years ago before these terms were fashionable. And I think one thing that the crisis is teaching us is that actually we did not embed sustainability (the capacity of a system to survive) and resiliency (which is the capacity of a system to absorb shock) we did not adopt these values in our social structures. And so we need your help. You're the ones who know more about this than we do and we need your help.

Second, as I'm sure you know, we are designers, planners, and preservationists, and we specialize in the design, planning, and preservation of physical space. We have been deprived from it. We can't gather as we normally do in these wonderful physical spaces, so we traded the physical for the virtual and as you can see in this particular presentation as all other video

presentations something big is missing. You are the ones who actually know more about the design of physical space than anyone else. And physical space is going to be wildly popular. So we need you to design it the best way it should be designed.

And, finally, it's not just physical space that we specialize in, but it's public physical space. Yes, everyone can hang out successfully or not in their apartment or home or yard but these are private spaces. What this crisis has taught us is that we need vibrant, functional, healthy public spaces and you are the ones who can do it.

We do not specialize in this college in landscapes and settlements. We specialize in communities. So, I do not know whether you'll become a designer of communities--some of our graduates become designers and some do not--but what I hope for is that you become a community builder. A builder not just of the physical but also of the social, cultural, of what makes humanity ultimately be together. So I count on you, and I have absolutely no hesitation that you are the ones to bet on.

So I want to congratulate you again and express my deepest appreciation for your patience and resilience. You have faced extraordinary circumstances that no one could have predicted and you did it! You are now automatically part of our alumni association and please take every opportunity to join us physically or virtually whatever may be best, for many years to come. We want to hear about your successes. We want to hear about the wonderful things that you can do for our communities.

So our commencement speaker is Chris Hite, a wonderful person and a friend of mine and a friend of the college. She, I'm proud to say, graduated from the CED with a BLA in 1987 and is currently the president of Dix.Hite, a very accomplished, very successful landscape architecture firm that has offices in Georgia, Florida, and Alabama. Hite is a talented designer and she has many other talents and she specializes specifically in parks, mixed use developments, and commercial developments. So she's a wonderful asset for all of us to have in the school. And you know you never know who is going to be the next commencement speaker. Maybe in a couple of years, one of you?

So thank you again, Let's welcome Chris Hite and after that the program coordinators. Again, congratulations, and Go Dawgs.



A MESSAGE FROM CHRIS HITE, BLA '87

2020

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TRANSCRIPTION OF HITE'S SPEECH / COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Online Commencement, Spring 2020

CHRIS HITE, BLA '87

President of Dix.Hite+Partners

Hi. My name's Chris Hite and I'm honored and pleased to address the University of Georgia College of Environment and Design Class of 2020.

I'd like to congratulate each of you on your accomplishment. It's huge. Obtaining a bachelor or a master in your area of study in the land arts takes a lot of work and it's something that you each should be very proud of.

It's an interesting time to be graduating with a degree associated with spatial design. During the course of isolation and social distancing we've all observed a great need for better connections in some instances where folks are isolated and for more space for moving and recreating in others where there's more density. Lessons learned in this pandemic will help shape our cities and associated landscapes in the future. And whatever direction you decide to take your career, you each will have the ability to shape the future world.

I'm excited to see what may come of it, and the ideas that you all will bring to the table. And in addition all those ideas that you'll help implement and foster. It really takes a team and you'll each have your own and unique footprint and role.

For myself, since graduating from the University of Georgia with an undergrad in landscape architecture, my own experience has been wrapped in a pure passion for practice in landscape architecture--holistic landscape architecture centered in community building and all the layers to which that pertains. How we recreate in space, for example. How we move through space. How building form defines space. How regulatory frameworks impact the whole. And how ecological systems are layered and function in space.

Influence and practice, my personal influence and practice has come through simply embracing life, living it to the fullest, and really being truly open to opportunities presented. Considering them, and then if chosen, giving them my full focus. That attitude incorporates lifelong learning and knowledge gained through practice in continued study, travel, and documentation through observation, photography, and sketching.

Simply walking through a space informs your design toolkit. It's truly fun to

have a continuing seat at the table, to bring the ideas to the spaces where folks will live and love and play and then as a practitioner ultimately seeing those spaces that you've thought about really come to life in the built form. That truly is the joy of being part of the land and building arts--seeing your work come to fruition.

It's pretty amazing. Despite the current situation, you all have a tremendous future to look forward to. There are many challenges out there that need your intellectual, creative, and enthusiastic energy to solve.

I do have a few pieces of simple advice. One, continue learning. Love learning, embrace it. Learn every day. I learn every day. Gather great people around you. People that support you, people that challenge you, people that you can trust. That will take you a long way as well. Always come to the table with a positive attitude. That goes an incredible an incredibly long way.

Be open minded to change as you can see, change happens constantly. And we have to be able to adapt and then think about how those changes may inform the future. That really is what your uh your ask is going to be. And then a couple of other things. One, just listen. It's taken me some time to learn how to listen, but you'll find that sometimes you don't have to say much at all you just have to listen and that provides the answer.

And then lastly, observe. Take the time to observe. As you're quickly learning, you're gonna have tough times. In those times pay attention because they actually may awaken you to the things that you weren't noticing. And, really, those things that you weren't noticing may be the most important of all. And they may carry you to that next that next uh chapter.

I truly wish you all the best. As you make your way over the next few months and then into your respective careers I'm excited to see what each of you end up doing. I'm also excited for each of you for the possibilities and for the influence I know that each of that each of you will have because after all the University of Georgia's College of Environment and Design provides one of the best foundations for practice in the southeast, the United States, and the world. I truly wish you all the best and thank you very much.



A MESSAGE FROM BRAD DAVIS

2020

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TRANSCRIPTION OF DAVIS' SPEECH / BLA PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Online Commencement, Spring 2020

Good afternoon, BLA students. I wish that we could all be here together but I hope that you take some joy and pride in seeing the beautiful Serpentine Garden behind me as we celebrate together our Class of 2020. I know this is not the quite the graduation address that any of us would have wanted. I feel that with you as one of your faculty and program director. The Class of 2020 is extra special to me because many of you visited during the spring and the summer of 2016 when I was just starting out as the BLA Coordinator. I can remember those first visits and it gives me great joy to see you all successfully launching out into the professional world. It's my joy and privilege to announce the names of our Class of 2020. Forty-two graduates in 2020. And these are in alphabetical order. Congratulations Class of '20. We can't wait to see you again.

Julia Alcorn
Nicole Antolic-Saban
Frances Arnall
Gray Brock
Caroline Brock
Devin Butler
Macon Chapman
Natalie Coleman
Alex Crow
Yawen Deng
Jonathan Diaddigo
Olivia Dinges
Canaan Dyer
Hannah Fisher
Laurel Fox
Kunyang Guo
Andrew Gutermann
Ailin Han
Samantha Hentz
Madeline Holder
Claire Jarvis
Micah Jeffcoat
Ashleigh Keaney
Diana Kim
Calvin Kom
Sydney Lane
Caroline Long
Braden Meadows
Serena Metropol
Natalie Minor
Kiet Nguyen
Elias Payne
Jose Perez Mendoza
Nathan Rhineheimer
James Rymer
Henry Smith
Barrett Teague
Mackenzie Tobin
Shaelyn Vering
Aubrey Whitehead
Hiyam Yacout



A MESSAGE FROM GEORGIA HARRISON HALL

2020

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TRANSCRIPTION OF HALL'S SPEECH / MLA PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Online Commencement, Spring 2020

To the 2020 MLA graduates, we have enjoyed working with you and we will miss you. And I know it's scary graduating in these uncertain times, but I believe that you'll have many great opportunities and we want to hear about them. So please keep in touch and share your successes with us. Now for the 2020 MLA graduates.

James Anderson
Felipe Barrantes
Kelsey Broich
Andi Dai
Jackson Gannaway
Yuanmin Gao
Sarah Hutchinson
Deborah Kim
Ruohan Li
Oliver Penny
Brandon Platt
Benjamin Proulx
Matthew Quirey
Saadia Rais
Jingxin Ren
Erika Schroeder
Clayton Smith
Elizabeth Solomon
Minhe Tang
Jiayao Yang



A MESSAGE FROM JAMES REAP

2020

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TRANSCRIPTION OF REAP'S SPEECH / MHP PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Online Commencement, Spring 2020

Hello, I'm James Reap, graduate coordinator of the master of historic preservation program. My colleagues Mark Reinberger, Wayde Brown, Eric MacDonald, Cari Goetcheus, and Scott Nesbit join me in congratulating our 35th graduating class. They are:

English Elizabeth Hinton
Elyse Neve Hoganson
Maxwell Stevenson Nosbisch
James Lee Rooks
Darcie Lillian Scales
Ashlen Marie Stump
Victoria Marie Vanhuss

And we especially want to recognize students inducted into Sigma Pi Kappa, the international historic preservation honor society:

Hannah Rose Mayo and
Timothy David Brown.

Thank you and congratulations all graduates.



A MESSAGE FROM UMIT YILMAZ

2020

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TRANSCRIPTION OF YILMAZ'S SPEECH / MUPD PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Online Commencement, Spring 2020

We are celebrating the graduating students differently this year. Without being together in the same place, we still share the joy. I'm Umit Yilmaz, the Athletic Association Professor in the College of Environment and Design and the program coordinator of the Master of Urban Planning and Design. Now it's my pleasure to announce the 10th graduating class of our program.

Julia Alcorn
James Bradley
Natalie Brown
Samantha Eberhard
Sean Griffith
Forrest Huffman
Melanie Rausch
and Samantha Trust

We're proud of your accomplishments and wish you the very best. Congratulations.

A SPECIAL

2020

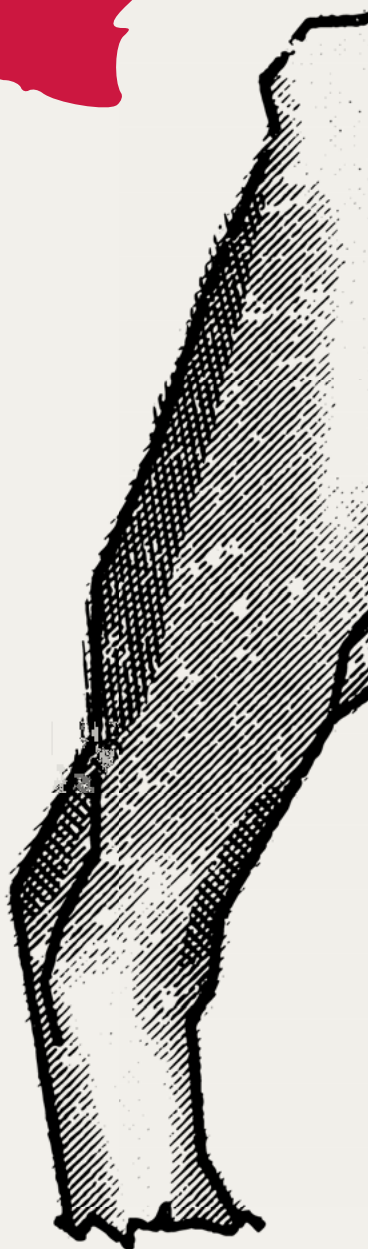
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A special video
commencement message
to the Class of 2020.

youtu.be/36sJmUEyYzE





**UNIVERSITY OF
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Dean Sonia Hirt, guest speaker Chris Hite, and the BLA, MLA, MHP, and MUPD program coordinators bid adieu to the Class of 2020 in a special video commencement message. <https://t.uga.edu/5WR>

More on Chris Hite, BLA '87 and President of Dix.Hite + Partners:
<https://www.dixhite.com/>

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Video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/36sJmUEyYzE>

Music Attribution: Arrangement and Audio Production by: Cameron Gwynn
(BMus Composition, BMus Music Theory, AB Music, Piano). Performance by Hugh
Hodgson School of Music graduating seniors and graduate students

Arch and Bulldog illustrations: Seth McWhorter, BLA '11