

The Colvin Institute of Real Estate Development

Colvin Institute Honors Maryland's "Fearless"
Real Estate Entrepreneurs



2017 Honorees: Elinor Bacon, Scott Plank, Davor Kapelina, Doug Lashly and Colvin Institute Director, Margaret McFarland.

On Tuesday, March 7, real estate industry leaders and faculty, staff, students and alumni of the University of Maryland honored four individuals at the 3rd Annual Innovation & Entrepreneurship in Real Estate Awards. The event sponsored by the Colvin Institute of Real Estate Development recognized **Elinor Bacon**, **Davor Kapelina**, **Douglas Lashley** and **Scott Plank** who exemplify creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship in Real Estate. The awards were established by the Colvin Institute from the endowment established by the late John Colvin and his wife Karen Colvin, and celebrate real leaders in either real innovation or real estate entrepreneurship and sometimes both.

Elinor Bacon, is the CEO of ER Bacon Development, and was honored for 40 years working in affordable and public housing. As Deputy Assistant Secretary of HUD during Clinton's second term, it was her leadership of the federal HOPE VI Program that worked to transform severely distressed public housing by partnering with the private sector to redevelop housing into beautiful mixed-income, successful communities. Honoree.

Davor Kapelina, a computer science alumnus founded of AtSite in 1993 and has transformed it from a small, local real estate services business into an industry leading national company. AtSite has played a pivotal role in guiding the industry's best practices in construction, design

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and high performance building operations.

Often referred to as an environmental capitalist, honoree **Doug Lashley**, an alum of the Business School had a vision for GreenVest long before "green" was popular. By pushing the envelope of public-private partnerships to leverage Federal, State and community investment. Lashley's firm has restored or saved the environmental quality of thousands of acres of environmentally sensitive real estate - and made money doing it.

The final honoree, **Scott Plank**, an alum of the urban studies program, is founder of the highly creative real estate development company – War Horse.

He has led a diverse range of real estate projects from entertainment venues to a portfolio of 850+ apartments, 80,000 square feet of office space and 150,00 square feet of retail. In addition, War Horse is known for incorporating private sector amenities into the lives of hard working public servants, such as state-of-the-art gyms for first responders and a first-of-its-kind teacher wellness center.



The 2017 recipients and presenters. From left to right (top): Tom Burton; Dr. Dean Chang, Dr. Sonia Hirt, Dr. Darryll Pines, Dr. Alex Triantis. From left to right (bottom): Daniel Sieberg, Elinor Bacon, Scott Plank, Davor Kapelina, Doug Lashley and Ken Ulman.

The event kicked off with a lively cocktail hour where guests got to mingle and network with faculty, students, friends and business partners. The reception was followed by a dinner, keynote speaker and awards presentation. **Tom Burton**, Alex.Brown Realty, Inc., acted as master of ceremonies and emcee for the evening. The event was hosted by the Deans of the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, **Dr. Sonia Hirt**, the Robert H. Smith School of Business, **Dr. Alex Triantis** and the A. James Clark School of Engineering, **Dr. Darryll Pines**.

Dr. Dean Chang, Associate Vice President for Innovation & Entrepreneurship and the founder of the Academy for Innovation & Entrepreneurship at the University of Maryland, as well as a veteran of Silicon Valley introduced keynote speaker, **Daniel Sieberg**, the Senior Marketing Manager for Google and author of *The Digital Diet*. His presentation included an overview of the Google tools available for research in real estate, as well as a shout out for Google founder **Sergey Brin**, a UMD Alum in Mathematics. The awards were presented by UMD's Economic Development Chief Strategy Officer **Ken Ulman**, following his energetic update on all of the exciting development and redevelopment happening in Greater College Park.

A special shout out to prior year honorees in attendance: **Julie Smith**, Bozzutto, **Michael Johnson**, UrbanCore and **Blasie Rastello**, Gilbane. A special to the staff and Commissioners of the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC), whose Executive Director Stacy Spann was honored in 2016.

The Colvin Institute wants to thank everyone who attended and helped raise money for scholarships. And to the staff who pulled off another terrific event. **Travis Wierengo** and his event planning company, **Carrie Chard**, Assistant Director of the Colvin Institute, **Gerard Boulin**, Program Assistant, and MRED students, **Meghan Leahy** (program design and production), **Mithila Mattoo** and **Katie Sipos**.

See you next year, **March 6, 2018!**



Celine Liang, Mircea Enache and Laura Burns



Tara Clifford, Marcie Cohen and Elinor Bacon



Malcolm Haith, Paul Robinson, Keith Gilmore and Timur Rysekov

