

News From
THE COLVIN INSTITUTE OF
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT
February
2016

March 8th, UMD I&E Real Estate Awards Dinner



Join us for our second annual Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Real Estate Awards! It will be a wonderful night on Tuesday, March 8th where the keynote speaker, Daniel Okrent, will speak about his book *Great Fortune: The Epic of Rockefeller Center*. Tickets are just \$59 a piece and fund scholarships. Register online by copying and pasting into your browser (YIKES):

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/innovation-and-entrepreneurship-in-real-estate-awards-dinner-2016-tickets-19849725062>.

Largest Spring MRED Class Ever Has Arrived

The Spring 2016 cohort of MRED students took their first steps in the Architecture Building on January 15th and 16th. This is the largest group of Spring students ever!!! The two-day orientation introduced the new students to the program and the faculty. It was a friendly, casual setting Friday night as the new students and faculty shared great conversation over food and libations. The all day Saturday Orientation and Assessment gave the students and faculty feedback on the new students' baseline skills in Business Writing, Oral Presentations, and Excel for Real Estate. **Dr. Leah Waks** conducted the assessment in Oral Presentations, **Andres Losada**, the assessment in Excel and **Vicki Lathom** in Business Writing. Thanks to Assistant Director **Tanya Bansal** for introducing the campus, the program, resources and tips on how to survive and thrive in the MRED program.

James Alfandre: Alumnus in the News

In This Issue

Quick Links

[More About Us](#)

[MRED News Archive](#)

[Admissions](#)

[Student Work](#)

[SoRED](#)



"Reclaiming the Median"

James Alfandre, an alum of the MRED program, is a pioneer in his new home of Salt Lake City. Notorious for its wide streets, Salt Lake City has had serious challenges to becoming a walkable city. James, however, saw these wide streets not as barriers to urban redevelopment, but as the focal points. Alfandre worked with city officials to develop the median of these large boulevards to host pop-up restaurants, retail, events, and concerts. "We're changing the economics of the street," Alfandre says. "Before, the streets sucked resources to be maintained, and now the streets are generating new tax revenues, jump-starting local businesses and catalyzing new investment in adjacent properties." For the full story, click on the link [here](#).

Student Profile: Deborah Bonner



Deborah Bonner

Since graduating from the University of Pittsburgh, **Deborah Bonner** has found her passion in real estate and a strong desire to be at the forefront of the industry. In Deborah's words, "I wanted to be the one in charge of driving multifamily investments toward a profitable goal."

Deborah worked in the asset management field for about sixteen years. During that time, she worked for industry leaders in both the conventional and affordable rental housing sectors, spanning multiple markets across the country. Among these companies were

DC Housing Finance, Mercy Housing, and The National Equity Fund.

While Deborah loved the challenging work of asset management, she found herself becoming increasingly interested in real estate development—specifically affordable housing development.

Deborah, thus, has returned to school to undertake her graduate studies at UMD's Master's in Real Estate Development program. She chose the MRED program because she had a strong desire to play an integral role in the visioning, planning, design, finance, and construction of affordable housing development. Deborah sees herself as a long-time advocate for the development and preservation of affordable housing. After graduating from UMD it is Deborah's dream to become a senior executive in charge of large scale, mixed income multifamily development projects that also address the critical shortage of affordable housing in the area.

Deborah is excited to be furthering her education. She began the MRED program in the Fall of 2014 and is set to graduate in 2017. She especially loves the interaction and sharing of ideas with professors and fellow classmates—many of whom work in the development industry. The program provides an academically challenging environment that is also rooted in practice.

Deborah is also working full-time as a development officer/multifamily loan underwriter with the **Community Development Administration (CDA)**. The CDA is the housing finance agency for the State of Maryland, and as such, provides financing for the development, rehabilitation, and preservation of affordable rental housing within the state. We wish Deborah the best of luck as she completes her master's degree and goes on to become a successful affordable housing real estate developer!

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND



COLVIN INSTITUTE OF
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT