

Winter | 2022
School of Architecture Planning and Preservation
Maryland's Built Environment School

2021 Winter Commencement



The Graduate Program of Real Estate Development celebrated graduation day with three students receiving a Master of Real Estate Development (MRED) degree, three students receiving dual degrees and two students receiving a Graduate Certificate. On December 22nd, friends, families and faculty took part in the virtual commencement. The School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation's ceremony was presided over by **Dean Dawn Jourdan**. The commencement address was delivered by **Julie Smith**, Chief Administrative Officer, Bozzuto Group. Ms. Smith has been a great supporter of the MRED program including, among other things, as a lecturer, panelist for the Colvin Lecture and competition judge. **Sharmin Davoodian**, Master of Real Estate Development, was one of six student speakers.

Congratulations to dual degree students: **Nusheen Majidi**, Master of Architecture + Real Estate Development; **Gabrielle Leudeu Hapi**, Master of Real Estate Development + Business Administration; and **Lawrence Saunders**, Master of Real Estate Development + Business Administration. Hats off to Master of Real Estate Development students **Devir Bitton**, **Sharmin Davoodian** and **Garrett Dickerson**. A special recognition goes to Graduate Certificate in Real Estate Development holders **Tom Gretz** and **John Plachta**.

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Recording](#)

John B. Colvin Capstone Competition



Sharmin Davoodian presenting to judges

On December 18th, students gathered for the in-person return of the John B. Colvin Capstone competition. Congratulations to first place winner **Sharmin Davoodian**, Master of Real Estate Development student for her project, "Kommune", a mixed-use project featuring 170 rental units with both market rate and affordable units and 24,000 square feet of retail and ground central plaza in Frederick, MD. **Gabrielle Leudeu Hapi**, Master of Real Estate Development and Business Administration, received second place for her project, "The Crown", a mixed-use, low-income development in Frederick, MD. Honorable mention went to **Nusheen Majidi**, Master of Architecture and Real Estate Development, for her project, "Oldtowne CURE", a mixed-use development in Oldtown, MD which targets health and wellness for underserved populations.

Other students presenting their final projects included: **Devir Bitton**, Master of Real Estate Development, for his project, "Frederick Row Development", in Frederick, MD; **Garrett Dickerson**, Master of Real Estate Development, for his project, "The Carroll Residents", in West Frederick, MD; **Terrence Harrington**, Master of Real Estate Development, for his project, "Duckbill", in Frederick, MD; **Lawrence Saunders**, Master of Real Estate Development and Business Administration, for his project, "The West", in Frederick, MD; and **Awais Qazi**, dual degree, Master of Architecture and Real Estate Development, for his project, "The Flats at Kingman Park", in Washington, DC.

Judges included: **Rokas Beresniovas**, Director, Commercial Business, Montgomery County Green Bank; **Timur Ryspekov**, '09, MRED '14, Senior Senior Development Project Manager, PIRHL, LLC; **Ebony Stocks** MRED '18, Executive Vice President, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation; **Anthony Waddell**, Principal, New Urban Equities, LLC; and poster judge, **Catherine Ryckman** MRED '18, Financial Analyst, University of Rochester.

Capstone mentors included **Jessica Jones** MRED '09, Senior Real Estate Development Manager, Enterprise Community Development, Inc.; alumnus **Scott Armiger**, President, Orchard Development Corporation; and **Tanya Bansal** MRED '14, Assistant Director, who served as the students' professional skills mentor. Design architects included **Adam Beauregard**, **Angella Dariah**, **Alla Elmahadi** MArch '18, **Michael Fischer** '05, MArch '08, **Nicole Hinkle** MArch '13 and **Maryssa Timberlake** MArch '17.

Congratulations to everyone that participated!

University of Colorado Boulder Takes Top Honors in Sixth Annual Colvin Case Study Challenge

By Maggie Haslam



Front: Stacy Spann, Elizabeth Glenn, Pam Askew, Amber Hughes, Merrill Fung, Kimberly Faist, Karen McGrath, Thomas Gretz Back: Ezra McPhail, Michael Mendoza, Sean Carter, Jonathan Baker, Kyle Duffy, Reed Bennett

A mixed-use urban infill development project on a MLB stadium parking lot was a home run for three graduate

students from the University of Colorado Boulder, earning them first place Saturday, December 11th, at the Sixth Annual Colvin Case Study Challenge. The team beat out an initial 21 entries and four semi-finalists from university programs across the nation in a juried, live competition at the University of Maryland.

“The teams this year were really talented and did a great job of showing off their knowledge and expertise of real estate development,” said **Maria Day-Marshall**, director of UMD’s Real Estate Development Program. “The judges were all in agreement about who the winner should be. Congratulations to the University of Colorado Boulder for an extraordinary presentation. Additionally, I am so proud of our team from the University of Maryland. **Thomas Gretz** was a one man show and he performed extremely well.”

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Alumni in the News!



Heather Howard

Heather Howard MRED '11 Vice President, Development at FD Stonewater, LLC was named 2022 President of African American Real Estate Professionals DC Chapter (AAREP DC). For over two decades AAREP DC has been a driving force in providing a supportive network for African Americans working in the commercial real estate industry. Way to go Heather!

AAREP
DC

Student Spotlight: Sharmin Davoodian



Sharmin Davoodian MRED '21 recently graduated from the MRED program and received a Master of Real Estate Development. She also won the John B. Colvin Capstone competition and was a student speaker at the 2021 Winter Commencement. She is currently working at the Marriott International Headquarters in Global Design Americas. Sharmin deals with owners, investors, designers/architects, and construction groups to make sure that they follow the standards. She also works with developers and negotiates property performance reports with the area vice president in each region to assess the building renovation requirements.

Sharmin grew up in Tehran, Iran, and lived there until she migrated to the United States in 2013. She has lived in the Washington DC area since 2013. In 2012, she received a Bachelor of Architecture Engineering from the University of Roodehen in Iran. Due to a different education

system in Iran, there are no honors when graduating from school. She also earned a certificate in advanced interior designing before joining the MRED program.

Sharmin was a part of the first-place team that won the NAIOP Capital Challenge Competition in 2021. And, most recently, the winner of the John B. Colvin Capstone Competition for her project, "Kommune".

She enjoys that the MRED program covers all the areas that as a developer in the real world you would be touching. According to Sharmin, “A lot of programs in real estate focus on the finance part only which makes it harder for students with other backgrounds to engage and enjoy the program as a whole.” Sharmin has worked full-time while taking classes in the MRED program. What she hoped to attain from the program was a well-rounded education that will allow her to perform well in the industry. Using the different backgrounds that come

from fellow students and professors she is always learning.

Sharmin's future goal after graduating from the MRED program is to get her foot in the door of real estate development. She is hoping that her degree and faculty guidance can make that dream come true! Good luck, Sharmin!

Colvin Institute of Real Estate Development | University of Maryland

