The Colvin Institute Newsletter
November 2015

In Memoriam: Eugene Ford, Sr.

Those of us who were privileged to work with or for Gene Ford were saddened to learn of his passing in October. Gene was the Founder of Mid-City Financial and Edgewood Management Corporation, and as his son Gene Ford Jr. reminded everyone at his memorial service this past Friday, his father was a "deal junkie." And a creative one at that. But his deals were always infused with a public and social purpose—they had to make money, sure, but they also had to make a difference. To our good colleagues at Urban-Atlantic and CPDC, both organizations "fathered" by Gene Ford—we will miss him, as we know you do.

SAVE THE DATE!--Awards Dinner March 8

Join us from 6:00pm to 9:30pm on Tuesday March 8, 2016 for the Maryland 2016 Innovation & Entrepreneurship Awards Gala. The event will be held in the Riggs Alumni Center at the University Of Maryland, College Park.

Fall Lecture: Joshua Olsen on James Rouse

This year's Lecture Series kicked off with Josh Olsen, author of Better Places, Better Lives: Biography of James Rouse. The night of October 21st began with a book signing where attendees had the opportunity to purchase signed copy of Mr. Olsen's book as well as meet the author.

The Architecture Auditorium was full with over 100 students, faculty and guests in attendance, all eager to hear about the life and work of legendary developer James Rouse.

In his lecture as well as in his book, Josh Olsen focused on James Rouse as a "restless" man always bent on solving the newest urban or suburban problem. He was motivated by a strong moral code, a desire to break down prejudice and to create places for people to live, work and play as a community.

Maryland can claim this native son who developed the first enclosed mall (Minneapolis); invented the first Festival Market (Faneuil Hall in Boston, followed by the Inner Harbor in Baltimore); coined the term "Urban Renewal;" conceptualized the low income housing tax credit; and created a legacy in the Enterprise Foundation and it's many projects in affordable housing and urban development.

Guest Speaker: Michael Murray

Michael Murray is an alum of the School's architecture program and now works as a tax syndicator for City Real Estate Advisors (CREA). Business had brought him to town from his home base of Boston, and we were pleased that...
Michael Murray spent an evening with our first-year students in the Introduction to Real Estate Development class on Wednesday, November 4th.

With a portfolio of more than $5 million, CREA raises funds for affordable housing developers by selling low-income housing tax credits (LIHTCs) to investors. Michael provided insight into his company’s role within the complex market of affordable housing, as well as the intricacies of affordable housing policy in this country.

Michael Murray, like many of the students in the classroom that evening, had no idea when he was down in the studio that he would make his career out of this important and arcane part of the real estate finance industry. At CREA, Michael works closely with both the investors buying tax credits as well as the developers submitting their affordable housing development proposals.

Student Profile: Javid Farazad

Javid Farazad is currently working hard on his capstone project to graduate from the MRED program this December. He was drawn to the MRED program because of its quadruple bottom line and its direct collaboration with students from the architecture, planning, and historic preservation programs. Javid always knew that becoming a real estate developer would be his ultimate goal. But before he turned to an education in real estate development, Javid set himself on a path that would reward him with a well-rounded foundation in multiple aspects of the real estate industry.

Born in Bethesda, MD, Javid attended Catholic University to study architecture. After graduating, he immediately moved to Shanghai to work as an architect. Upon returning to Washington DC in 2011, he switched gears and was hired to work as a project engineer for Turner Construction. In the Fall of 2013, Javid enrolled in the MRED program and accepted a position with Snead Construction as a project manager.

Javid reports that working as an architect and then in the construction field while simultaneously taking classes in real estate development gives him a well-rounded view of the industry. He says that understanding these multiple viewpoints will benefit him greatly when he begins his career in real estate development.

Javid recently received some exciting news: he was appointed to the Prince George's County Advisory Planning Commission as the Commissioner for District 4 in College Park. As commissioner, Javid is be part of the team that makes recommendations to the Mayor and Council on zoning applications, land use issues and plans, grant requests and capital improvements. He hopes this position will allow him to participate in the zoning rewrite of Prince George's County.

Not surprisingly, Javid says that networking has been the most important outcome of being a student in the MRED program. He hopes to one day start his own mixed use multifamily real estate development firm in the DC/Baltimore area. Having already conducted market analysis in Baltimore for his capstone project, and having used the program to network, Javid is one step closer to his goal.
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