Omar Blaik Delivers Fall Lecture on October 27

Students, Alumni, Faculty, Advisory Council, and Friends of the Colvin Institute, this is a Fall Lecture not to be missed.

6:30 - 7:30 Monday, October 27, Architecture Auditorium, Free Parking in Lot 1 a half block from our building.

Omar Blaik, is the Co-CEO of U3 Ventures, and Real Estate Advisor for the University. If you want to know what and how the process of rejuvenation of College Park in cooperation with the City of College Park and the owners of key real estate holdings in the area into a vibrant College Town is going, you don't want to miss this Lecture.

Mr. Blaik was the key advisor to the President of the University of Pennsylvania with over 20 years in the transformation through public private partnerships of much of West Philadelphia.

Collaborative Study Tour

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Upcoming Events:

October 27th, Fall lecture by Omar Blaik
On **August 27th**, incoming students from the Real Estate Development, Urban Planning, Architecture and Historic Preservation programs participated in an all day interdisciplinary site tour focused on planned communities in Maryland. The Big Terp bus was loaded with nearly 50 students to see four of the most iconic communities in Maryland in Prince George's, Howard, Baltimore and Montgomery Counties.

First stop was the historic planned community of **Greenbelt** which was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1997. Here students visited the Greenbelt community center housed in the original **Greenbelt Elementary School**. The City was the first public housing development in the US, instigated by Eleanor Roosevelt and was one of four "green" cities built with federal funds; all inspired by the English Garden City movement. In the 1950's the federal government sold all the residential units to a cooperative that persists today, making this a most successful development in preserving it's original art deco character and social purpose.
David Hillman, the founder and CEO of Southern Management Corporation, welcomed the incoming students in the community room at the adaptive reuse apartment complex developed out of the abandoned Oella Mill in Ellicott City, MD. The town of Oella was a classic factory town that used the Baltimore and Ohio railway to move textiles to markets around the country. Mr. Hillman detailed the financial costs and benefits of adaptive reuse, as well as how parking, asbestos and historic windows all were handled in the process. The building was redeveloped for residential use and currently houses 147 apartment units.

Students hopped back on the bus for the 15 minute drive over to the new town of Columbia, MD which was developed on more than 14,000 acres acquired by the Rouse Company in the mid 1960s in order to develop a planned community. The Columbia master plan called for a series of ten self-contained villages, around which day-to-day life would revolve.

Several speakers shared their knowledge about this planned community including. First up, was the Archivist for the Columbia Association, Barbara Kellner, who gave the history of Columbia, which was modeled along many of the same principles as Greenbelt 30 years earlier. Mr. Earl Armiger, President of Orchard Development, who has long been a resident and developer in Howard County, talked about his first project as an out parcel of the Columbia plan, and his engagement with the Howard Hughes Corporation in the redevelopment of the downtown where he is the co-developer of The Metropolitan, a new mixed use apartment over retail complex near the Columbia Mall.

Students also had a guided tour by Howard County Planning staffers and URSP alums, Kate Bolinger and Randy Clay, to see the Frank Gehry designed original Community/Sales building on the lake. The building had opened just days before as a Whole Foods in one of the various steps being undertaken to transform the 50 year old mall downtown into a mixed use urban downtown. Back on the bus, Germano Gomez, Associate Director of the Colvin Institute and long time resident of Columbia, guided the bus through two village centers, Wilde Lake and Hickory Ridge, on the way out of Columbia.

Robert McClennan, senior project architect at Bonstra/ Haresign
Architects spoke about the first attempt to develop a community using traditional neighborhood design planning techniques at the final stop on the tour – Kentlands Community, in upper Montgomery County. Kentlands was the dream of Joseph Alfandre who engaged Andres Duany, which still has an office in Kentlands, to build a new community on new urbanist principles. The houses around the green with front porches, close on the sidewalks, back alleys and garages, are a testament to Joe's persistence in changing the zoning in Gaithersburg to allow such a new approach to suburban development. The tour ended at the historic Kentlands Mansion which anchors this icon of the 1990s and a very successful development with walkable retail, office and recreation all contained within the community.

Meet Incoming International Students

The Colvin Institute was delighted to welcome a class of 33 incoming students this fall -- our largest class ever. Our international students come from all over the world this fall. Germany, Italy, China, India, Nigeria, Mongolia, three of whom are profiled below.

Celine Leang is originally from China and moved to the United States three years ago to pursue her professional goals in real estate development. She received her bachelor degree in accounting and is looking to apply for her CPA license soon. Celine is interested in combining accounting and real estate development skills in her professional future.

Mariachiara Baroni is originally from Brescia, Italy and currently holds her bachelor degree in architecture and building management. Mariachiara is eager to learn finance and management skills through the real estate development
program. She is also interested in expanding her network to this continent and pursuing her career goals in the United States.

Junjie Zhu is from Qingyuan, China. Junjie worked for a real estate consultant firm in China and has experience in residential complex development. He holds a bachelor's degree in biotechnology and is looking forward to learning basic and then advanced skills and concepts of real estate development. He is excited to meet new people, explore new possibilities and settle in the United States.