

NAIOP 2017 Capital Challenge

A team of four Real Estate Development graduate students at the University of Maryland have been competing in NAIOP's 2017 Capital Challenge, in which the students compete to against other universities in the Washington, DC area to create a development proposal for a designated site. The Maryland team consists of **Thomas Parker**, **Oluwatobi Thomas**, **Oluwatomi Thomas**, and **Daniel Green**, with **Ron McDonald**, CEO of **RMCDdevelopment**, serving as the faculty adviser.

This year's competition is centered around the redevelopment of the 204 acre Comsat Campus in Clarksburg, MD. The UMD team proposal, Clarksburg Hills, features a mixed-use development that seeks to maximize the value of the 3,600 feet of frontage along I-270 with restaurants, grocery, and a signature brew pub visible along the highway. The students presented their proposal to a panel of judges on March 24th. The 5 competing teams will present their proposals at a public event on the evening of April 5th. The winner will be announced at the conclusion of the public reviews. If you wish to attend and see our team compete, go to www.naiopdcmd.org and register.



Field Trip to Southern Maryland

On Sunday, April 2nd, **Roger Staiger**, faculty for RDEV 450 and RDEV 630, and **Margaret McFarland**, faculty for REV 471, took students on a field trip to Southern Maryland. The tour visited Historic St. Mary's City [HSMC], the first planned city in Maryland, where the chief archaeologist, **Henry Miller**, gave a detailed lecture on the 50 years of archaeology at Maryland's First Capital, revealing the first planned City in America based on a Baroque town plan [read Rome for us non-architecture historians]. St. Mary's City, preceded by 80 years the plans for Annapolis and by over 200 years the Baroque city plan of Washington, DC. Many thanks to **Dr. Regina Faden**, the Executive Director for HSMC, for opening up the outdoor living museum for our students on a Sunday.

On down the Southern Maryland peninsula at Point Lookout, the students got a close up look at a water front property at the mouth of the Potomac. The small vacation cottage is undergoing redevelopment. There were presentations by the environmental engineer for the property as well as the architects who addressed the restrictions and challenges when developing in the Critical Area of the Chesapeake Bay. Pictured below is the student group in front of the First Catholic Chapel (reconstructed) in North America.

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Real Estate Development students and faculty Margaret McFarland (left) and Roger Staiger (right) gathered in front of the First Catholic Chapel in North America at Saint Mary's City, reconstructed several years ago after 40+ years of archaeological research.

Alumni Profile: Joe McKay



Joe McKay, JD/MRED '15, relocated to Las Vegas, NV in 2016 to begin a PhD/LLM program in hospitality and law at University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). He will be researching development and gaming regulation with UNLV's hotel school, law school and international gaming institute. No surprise, but Joe will also be teaching hospitality law to undergraduates.

Prior to completing the MRED program, Joe studied Hotel Administration at Cornell University.

Joe is very pleased he had the opportunity to complete his MRED degree and learn from amazing industry professionals like Professors **David Freishtat**, **Rob McClellan**, and **Andrew Roud**, among others. This May, Joe hopes to see some familiar faces when the MRED program travels to Las Vegas for the annual International Council of Shopping Centers' real estate convention.

Alumni Profile: Ryan Smyth

Ryan Smyth, MRED '14, began his career in the residential real estate industry as a Realtor in North-Central West Virginia as a Sales Manager for production homebuilder, Dan Ryan Builders.

Ryan graduated from the University of Maryland with his Master's in Real Estate Development in 2014. He was a recipient of the program's Academic Achievement Award for academic excellence and placed second in the school's bi-annual Capstone Competition with his development proposal



for *The Shops at Whetstone*, a mixed-use project in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Currently, Ryan is the Associate Director of Acquisitions, responsible for sourcing multifamily and mixed-use assets for Ventera in the state of Florida, moving there in March 2017. The role requires that he understand the market trends in every major market in Florida, as well as the newest trends in multifamily and mixed use development.

Ryan enrolled in UMD's MRED program to prepare him to compete in today's job marketplace. The program accomplished that goal. He is grateful for all the knowledge gained from the program, as it has provided him increased opportunities in the industry.

