

MAPP Travels to Haiti

RDEV staff member, **G rard Boulin**, traveled to Haiti with MAPP student group – President and Vice President, **Brian Houstle** and **Nicholas Przybocki** of Roots Home & Abroad. **Boulin** served as a consultant, and language and cultural interpreter to foster local connections in Haiti. In addition to tasting amazing food, dancing to Haitian music, and seeing colorful art, they began a relationship with the community of L ogane. Together with the mayor, they met with community members to discuss public issues including the need for clean water, electricity, bathrooms, and communal amenities. After identifying the key issues, they met with a construction company, engineer, architect, and business leaders to gain advice and insight into the construction process in Haiti. In six months, they will return to meet with the community and propose their sustainability concept design.



Brian Houstle, Gerard Boulin, and Community Members

Houstle stated, "On Saturday we traveled to L ogane. We met with the Mayor who discussed a partnership with us and invited us to their community meeting. At the meeting, we met the thirteen district representatives of L ogane. They spoke about their lack of electricity, their poisoned waterways and flooded croplands. However, they also spoke of their community pride for their major yearly Easter event, RARA, their patience to work together, and their multipurpose space connected to the high school in the center of the city. The space is used for teaching their children, but many of the district representatives expressed concern about the location of the public buildings. The districts located in the mountains receive less support, and have poor access to the pleasures of the city center. We believe our project may be the opportunity to provide communal amenities directly to these districts."



Nicholas Pryzybocki, Brian Houstle, Gerard Boulin, and Students

Boulin said, "I wanted to take the students to see and experience Haiti's culture for themselves, interact with the community members, children, and leaders. Most importantly, I wanted to change the negative narrative of Haiti often portrayed by the media. The students had a chance to create profound impact in the remotest areas of Haiti where the community members will cherish their work for the next generations to come. I'm excited and look forward to seeing the final project".

MRED Students Travel to RECon



Akiel Pyant, William Middleton, Margaret McFarland, Elsa Escobar- Pedrin, Carrie Chard, John Lin, Rahul Chawla, Richard Adjou

The International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) held its annual RECon convention for retail real estate professionals on May 20-23 in Las Vegas. Six MRED students along with **Carrie Chard** and **Margaret McFarland** were among the 31,000 industry professionals in attendance. Students took advantage of three days of education sessions, exhibits, and networking events. In addition, students had the great fortune of participating in a special mentoring session hosted by **John Lin**, CapStar Commercial Realty, on the trade show floor. Everyone enjoyed the Vegas-style buffet on Monday night.



Affordable Housing Summit



Catherine Ryckman, Blanka Thibaud, Elsa Escobar, Carrie Thomas

On May 11, MRED students attended the 27th annual **Affordable Housing Summit** in North Bethesda, Maryland. Keynote speaker, **Julian Castro**, former HUD Secretary and Mayor of San Antonio, was presented the Robert C. Weaver Housing Champion Award for his dedicated work in providing safe, quality, and affordable housing to families. After the luncheon and awards ceremony, attendees had the opportunity to explore break-out sessions on the topics of affordable living, transportation, healthcare, and the economy in Montgomery County.

MRED Alumni Profile: Ryan Smyth



Ryan Smyth, MRED '14, is now the Vice President of Acquisitions for **29th Street Capital (29SC)**, a privately held real estate investment and advisory firm with nearly 10,000 multifamily units under management. Ryan is responsible for all facets of the firm's multifamily acquisitions and asset management strategies in the state of Florida. His primary goal is to successfully build 29SC's investment platform to over \$200MM in portfolio value within the next three years. Within 10 years, he hopes to lead development efforts for the firm in Florida and along the East Coast. Ryan

says, "Every class I took in the MRED Program has been applicable at one point or another in my real estate career post-graduation. Now, as the Vice President of Acquisitions, I will use the knowledge and experience gained through my classes in asset management, urban design, law, taxation, finance, negotiations, and construction, to ensure my portfolio is a success for 29SC. The application of these disciplines ties in to why I chose UMD's MRED Program in the first place -- I wanted to get a well-rounded education in real estate development; an education that would set me up for future success."

OBITUARY: ROBERT SAMUEL KENISON

It is with great sadness that the Colvin Institute announces the passing of

our friend and former faculty member, Robert Kenison.



Robert Samuel Kenison, 79, of Arlington, VA, passed away on June 13, 2018 after a brief illness. Born July 11, 1938 in Evanston, IL to Samuel Morris Kenison and Gertrude Kenison (née Sullivan), Bob was raised in Manchester, NH. He graduated summa cum laude from St. Anselm College in Goffstown, NH in 1960, and from The Harvard Law School in 1963. After law school, Bob joined the Peace Corps, and the experience changed his life. He served

for two years in a poor barrio in the city of Manizales, Colombia. He met his wife-to-be, also a Peace Corps Volunteer in Manizales, and established lifelong friendships. Living and working in a desperately poor community, he came to believe that there was a role for government in helping the poor, especially in a society where the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Bob pursued a career born of this experience, serving with distinction as an Associate General Counsel in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In his forty-plus years of public service, he earned the friendship, respect and admiration of many, and won numerous awards. Bob was the only HUD official to have three times received the President's Rank Award, under Presidents Reagan, Bush, and Clinton. In retirement, he was an adjunct faculty member at the University of Maryland's Colvin Institute of Real Estate Development. More than ten years after his retirement, he received yet another award, from a forum of the American Bar Association, for outstanding service and commitment to affordable housing and community development law. Bob is survived by Anne, his beloved wife of 52 years; his daughter Laura; son-in-law Colin; brother Paul; nieces Tracy and Dale and their families; many cousins and friends, as well as Anne's sister Debbie and mother Rose, now 102. He was predeceased by his parents, both of whom died too young, and his brother Arthur, known to family as Ralph, who died in 2017, five years after the devastating loss of his wife Jeanne. Bob, who loved reading, golf, jazz, travel, and work, will be remembered for his keen intellect, sense of humor, integrity, commitment to public service, and love for his family. At Bob's request, there will be no funeral. Contributions in Bob's memory may be made to Capital Caring/Hospice, 2900 Telestar Ct., Falls Church, VA 22042; or Compassion and Choices, compassionandchoices.org

