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The UMD Historic Preservation Program celebrated an important milestone last year, marking 30 years since the graduate certificate in HISP was first offered in the School of Architecture. We took the opportunity to remember the many accomplishments over the years and to honor those individuals who were instrumental in setting the program on the path to success.

The celebration was highlighted by a dinner held in October at the Riversdale Mansion, site of one of the very first community preservation projects led by founding director, David Fogle. Several early members of the HISP faculty were able to attend, including Tom Mayes, Randy Mason, Mary Konsulis, and Mary Sies, who participated in a panel discussion along with Don Linebaugh and Connie Ramirez. In recognition of her long career in preservation, we took the occasion to present our first Distinguished Alumni Award to Patricia Gail Littlefield (MHP 2003). Gail was the first student to graduate with the Masters in Historic Preservation degree.

Since the MHP degree was established in 2001, the program has continued to expand, with dual degrees in Architecture, Community Planning, Real Estate Development, Anthropology, and, most recently, History and Landscape Architecture. The range of these degrees indicate a commitment to growing the interdisciplinary connections of preservation practice, and reflect the broadening of the discipline to include multiple types of resources and many new voices. In its most recent strategic plan, HISP has focused on engaging with underrepresented communities and educating diverse practitioners. As of 2018, the program has more than 90 masters degree graduates, employed across the nation in positions with government agencies, non-profits, cultural resource management companies, museums, and architectural firms.
2019 HISP Cohort

Six HISP masters and one PhD student entered the program this fall: Sara Fuller (ARHP), Nicole Ursin (AAHP), Hannah Cameron (URPD), Karen Yee (CPHP), Angela Bailey (AAHP), Jeff Brammer (MHP), and Hannah Grady (ARHP- not pictured).

2018-2019 Graduates

Eight students graduated with HISP degrees in 2018-19: Emma Schrantz (ARHP), Kelly Schindler (MHP), Kelly Haley (ARHP), Ty Ginter (MHP), Christine Dunham (CPHP), Katie Boyle (AAHP), Daniela Tai (ARHP); not pictured, Meagan Staton (CPHP ‘18).

First UMD President’s Posdoctoral Fellow for HISP

Dr. Michelle Magalong joined the HISP faculty in July 2019 as a postdoctoral fellow. Dr. Magalong was one of only seven scholars to receive the fellowship selected from a field of more than 60 applicants. The topic of Dr. Magalong’s proposal is, “Telling All Americans’ Stories: A Movement of Diversity, Inclusion, and Relevancy in Historic Preservation.” Dr. Magalong’s efforts to promote diversity and inclusion within the preservation field directly align with one of the main goals of the HISP Program strategic plan. During her two years as a fellow, Dr. Magalong will organize and direct a symposium held on campus, edit a volume of the resulting essays, and participate in the scholarly activities and programs of the school.

Dr. Magalong received her doctorate in Urban Planning in 2017 from the University of California, Los Angeles, and since 2012 has served as the president of the national network, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation. In 2018 Dr. Magalong was recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation on their list of “40 Under 40: People Saving Places.”
Four MHP students (Sara Baum, Jeff Brammer, Chris Bryan, and Grace Davenport) participated last summer in a new elective course taught by Dr. Dennis Pogue. The focus of the course was to help prepare a preservation plan for the historic Cremona property, located in St. Mary’s County, Maryland. The management of the 1300-acre Cremona farm, which was established in 1658, is in the process of transitioning to a non-profit foundation, whose mission is to preserve the property’s outstanding environmental and cultural resources, and to devote it to educational purposes.

New Course in HISP Curriculum

For the Spring 2019 semester, HISP introduced a new 2-credit course focused on professional practice. The idea behind this course came from recommendations made by members of our Technical Advisory Committee. They stressed that when our graduates enter the job market, they would benefit immensely from having received a tutorial on a range of skills and practices that newcomers to the field are expected to have mastered. The five students included three MHP candidates (Kelly Schindler ‘19, Josette Graham ‘19, and Ty Ginter ‘19), along with one senior undergraduate pursuing the BS in Architecture, and a MS candidate in Landscape Architecture.

Together with the instructor, Dr. Connie Ramirez, the students brainstormed about the specific experiences that they thought would be most valuable for them to gain. As the students came to the course with varying backgrounds, and with different goals for their professional careers, it was important to tailor the activities to fit their individual needs and to be fluid in planning the range of activities and topics.

The emphasis was on meeting with a variety of preservation professionals working in the field. The 12 speakers who came to the class included four HISP alumni, and their jobs ran the spectrum from managers in federal agencies and local government staffers, to leaders of non-profits, the director of a historic house museum, a historic restoration project manager, academics, contractors, and architects. Topics included alternative approaches to dispute resolution, preservation ethics, how to conduct meetings in public and professional settings, and the use of various technologies. Outside class, each of the students interviewed 10 professional practitioners (five in their offices and five by email or telephone). For their final paper assignment, each student was charged with proposing their own definition of a preservation professional.

HISP619C: Cremona Preservation Plan

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Dr. Connie Ramirez

Dr. Connie Ramirez was presented with the Dean’s Award for Outstanding Faculty Achievement at the MAPP commencement ceremony in May. Connie was recognized for her many contributions over the last 15 years, including her teaching, mentoring of students, fundraising, and ceaseless support of UMD HISP. Dr. Ramirez enters retirement as the longest tenured member of the HISP adjunct faculty.
The Jon C. Graff Prize in Historic Preservation

The Jon C. Graff Prize in Historic Preservation was established and endowed by Dr. Graff to support advanced graduate students in their transition from the program to their entry in the preservation field. The prize will be presented to one or more students annually, and includes a commemorative medal and a financial award, which may be used to pay for travel and attendance at a conference, to support independent research, or to pursue other avenues of professional advancement of their choice. The first awardees of the prize are Daniela Tai (ARHP ’19) and Paula Nasta (URPD doctoral student).

HISP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Reestablished

The TAC advises the HISP Program on a range of matters related to curricula, skills development, internship opportunities, student recruitment, and strategic planning. This spring the TAC was re-formed after a brief hiatus, with 15 members agreeing to serve. Among them, they represent federal, state, and local government agencies, cultural resource management firms, the academy, and the nonprofit sector. Among the topics of particular interest at the March meeting were reviewing and assessing the initiatives implemented in the strategic plan. The committee registered its strong support for integrating questions of social justice, diversity, and inclusion throughout the curriculum and in all of the activities of the program.

HIHP and HPLA: Two New Dual Degrees

The Historic Preservation Program continued its long history of interdisciplinary collaboration with the introduction this year of two new dual degree master’s programs, in conjunction with History (HIHP) and Landscape Architecture (HPLA). The HIHP degree reflects the longtime connection between the History and Historic Preservation Programs, going back to the early days of HISP at the university. The HPLA dual degree recognizes the close relationship between landscape architecture, cultural landscapes, and historic preservation.

Students enrolling in either of the dual degrees will be able to complete two master’s degrees in as little as eight semesters rather than the typical 10 to 12. We look forward to welcoming our first students in these degree tracks in the fall of 2020.

The National Council of Preservation Education (NCPE) Recertification

UMD HISP was the first member of the council to be approved under the new periodical review guidelines. The review is aimed at ensuring that programs continue to meet the standards set by NCPE. We received unanimous approval from the peer review committee in the summer of 2018, and Director Dennis Pogue and Assistant Paula Nasta attended the annual meeting of NCPE in San Francisco last November to receive the certificate.
Baltimore Alley House Study — Fall 2017

The Fall 2017 studio was a unique opportunity for students from the Urban Studies and Planning (URSP) and Historic Preservation (HISP) programs to work collaboratively in addressing place-based, heritage planning issues. The subjects for this studio were traditional “alley houses” dating from the mid-19th to early 20th centuries in Baltimore, Maryland. The vernacular structures were originally built for working-class people from diverse cultural and racial backgrounds. Partners for this studio included the State of Maryland’s Department of Housing and Community Development, the City of Baltimore, and the Maryland Historical Trust. The course was taught by Dr. Jeremy Wells and Dr. Leland Edgecombe (URSP).

Students produced a 127-page report that featured a decision matrix to determine which buildings should be stabilized, demolished, or preserved, as plans are formulated to address the challenges of widespread abandonment and vacancy that plagues much of Baltimore. The students’ work also included a focus on the stakeholders associated with Baltimore’s alley houses—especially the people who live in these historic resources today. The students’ report recommends specific ways to engage with stakeholders to balance local needs with preservation goals.
The topic of this studio course was the tangible and intangible heritage associated with the LGBTQ community in Baltimore, Maryland. The focus of the students’ work was on “affirming places,” which are defined as buildings or locations/sites that have been traditionally associated with affirming the identity of, and providing social support for, LGBTQ people. These places include health centers, churches, libraries, bars, and private homes. The contemporary LGBTQ community is rapidly moving toward online affirmation/support networks and becoming less place-centric, which threatens the continued relevance of physical resources and their role as affirming places. The studio was conducted in partnership with Preservation Maryland, under the direction of Dr. Jeremy Wells; the class was composed of Ty Ginter (MHP '19), Daniela Tai (ARHP '19), Emma Schrantz (ARHP '19), Kelly Haley (ARHP '19), and Katie Boyle (AAHP '18).

Students produced a 96-page “toolkit” that focused on marginalized community members who have traditionally been excluded from historic preservation practice and from LGBTQ history. The students considered how the traditional, authorized heritage discourse applied to their work, prepared an overview of the past, present, and future of official designation of LGBTQ historic places, and explored the use of grassroots preservation tools in marginalized communities. Students collected data for their study through interviews, a community workshop, archival research, and physical documentation. Students chose the site of a former bar, Club Hippo, as a case study to demonstrate how a community can identify and document LGBTQ built heritage through grassroots efforts.
UMD HISP and Anthropology students headed to Weatherly, PA, once again this summer to continue documenting historic resources related to the former Eckley Miners Village. Led by URPD doctoral student Paula Nasta, the team of five field measured and photographed 12 outbuildings. The building types recorded this summer included several privies, a chicken coop, a garage, sheds, and three different styles of dog houses. Digital drawings for each building will be produced and shared with the Anthracite Heritage Museum for their records. Seven of the structures will be adapted by the museum to create an interpretive exhibit on outbuildings and their use in meeting the changing needs of the Eckley villagers.

The Eckley field schools offer students an opportunity to practice skills learned in class, as well as to gain valuable interdisciplinary experience. During the first two weeks of the field school, Anthropology students learn to complete field drawings working with HISP students. During the remaining four weeks of the program, preservation students learn the basic skills of archaeological excavation, under the direction of Anthropology professor and HISP affiliate faculty member, Dr. Paul Shackel.

Eckley Update

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Digital Heritage Documentation

When the roof of Notre Dame Cathedral burst into a sheet of flames, the need for disaster planning for historic properties immediately became headline news. It was an enormous relief to learn that the structure had been digitally documented, and that the detailed information was in hand to begin to plan the iconic building’s restoration. Over the last year, HISP had already been working with the National Park Service on two pilot projects to scan and document selected properties in the National Capital Region. One of the structures is the 19th-century Paw Paw tunnel on the C&O Canal. Laser scanning is the only viable means of capturing the level of detail needed to assess the condition of the 3000-foot-long tunnel, and thus take the necessary steps to plan for its preservation. Anthropology PhD candidate Stefan Woehlke is leading these efforts; Hassan Tariq (CPHP) converted the scans of the Prince William Theater into CAD drawings.
This summer, a team of graduate students began to disassemble the partially fallen buttress at the Bostwick House. The buttress was built within a few decades after Bostwick was constructed in 1746, and was necessary to support the structurally unstable four-story south wall. After several natural disasters, including an earthquake, the 2012 derecho storm, and a series of heavy summer rains, portions of the buttress had collapsed. The students are carefully removing bricks, rocks, and debris, and recovering and documenting any associated artifacts. The project provides opportunities for our students to reveal and record a variety of construction methods, as numerous repairs were made to the buttress over the years. The project should be completed by December 2019.

Paula Nasta directed the work, assisted by Sara Baum (MHP) and Grace Davenport (MHP), Ben Bernstein (ARHP), Hassan Tariq (CPHP), and two first-year students in the AAHP program, Angela Bailey and Nicole Ursin. Anthropology doctoral candidate, Stefan Woehlke, will laser scan the buttress arch, and the scans, orthographic drawings, and photographs will provide a blueprint for reconstructing the structure. HISP post-doctoral associate Megan Bailey will catalogue the recovered artifacts.
The education abroad course, Understanding Place: Cultural Landscapes of Yorkshire, will be offered again for the fourth time this summer. The program is based at the Maryland Study Centre, located on the Kiplin Hall estate in North Yorkshire, England. Kiplin was the home of Cecilius Calvert, the founder of the Maryland Colony, and the ca. 1620 house and grounds are maintained as a historic house museum. Over the 18 days (May 25-June 12), students will experience the extraordinarily rich historic resources of Yorkshire, and explore the methods of identifying, recording, preserving, and interpreting a diverse array of cultural landscape types. Four days are spent inventorying properties that were part of the former 5000-acre Kiplin estate. For more information, contact Dr. Dennis Pogue.

Dean and Professor Don Linebaugh and Dr. Megan Bailey, postdoctoral associate, have received a Skiffes Creek Material Culture Research Grant for $25,000 from The Conservation Fund to complete the processing and analysis of artifacts from the Kippax Plantation site. The Kippax site, located in Hopewell, Prince George County, Virginia, was occupied by Native Americans beginning in the Archaic Period (8,000 years BP), and by European settlers from the late 17th century. Since excavations began in 1981, numerous structural features have been revealed, including the remains of a late 17th-century earthfast house and an associated slave quarter, and thousands of artifacts were recovered. The artifacts are currently being catalogued and will be analyzed as evidence of trade relations, consumer behavior, and daily life at the Kippax site throughout its occupation. The results will be the culmination of decades of study and will serve as an important resource for future historical archeology in the Chesapeake region.
Mary Corbin Sies

Mary Corbin Sies, Isabelle Gourney, and Robert Freestone (editors), *Iconic Planned Communities and the Challenge of Change* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2019)

*Iconic Planned Communities* explores the 21st-century fortunes of planned communities. Beginning with Robert Owen’s industrial village in Scotland and concluding with Robert Davis’s neotraditional resort haven in Florida, the 23 case studies document the effort to translate optimal design into sustaining a common life that works for changing circumstances and for new generations of residents.

John H. Sprinkle, Jr.


For 30 years the Historic Sites Act of 1935 was the primary legislative foundation for American historic preservation, and foreshadowed the transformation enabled by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. While the HSA made great strides in the creation of official memory and the management of change during the middle third of the 20th century, the National Park Service delayed in formally recognizing a fundamental concept in American historic preservation that had emerged during that period: historic districts.
The approach of human-centered built environment heritage preservation aims to give voice (and respect) to multiple perspectives without losing sight of our goal that heritage conservation practice should, fundamentally, benefit all people. We believe that this approach is essential for creating an emancipated built heritage conservation practice that must successfully engage very different ontological and epistemological perspectives.


This study explores the nature of the relationship between historic preservation and architectural practice. The examined literature contains many examples showing that the architecture field views historic preservation as an external interest, while evidence from the job market indicates that architecture employers are uninterested in historic preservation skills, and historic preservation employers are not looking for architecture skills. Moreover, historic preservation is increasingly more closely related to environmental and behavioral studies than it is to the architectural field. The relationship between architecture and historic preservation is tenuous, strained, and based more on stereotypes than on actual evidence.

Jeremy Wells (and 10 co-authors) “Empowering Communities to Identify, Treat, and Protect their Heritage: A Cultural Landscape Case Study of the Horto d’El Rey, Olinda, Brazil,” in Heritage and Sustainable Urban Transformations: Deep Cities (Routledge, 2019)

There is a substantial divide between conventional experts and civil experts (laypersons) in the meanings that they associate with the historic environment. The way in which built heritage conservation is conducted is based on a top-down approach, expert rule, and an unintentional disregard for the values and meanings of most stakeholders. This essay, based on a case study of the Horto d’El Rey, one of the first botanical gardens in Brazil, explores a possible way to dissolve the barrier between civil experts and conventional experts.


Could vast gigabytes of social media data be used to inform a “people-centered” spatial heritage planning tool? This essay presents the theory behind creating an online tool that could systematically collect meanings from social media and other data sources to improve the way in which buildings, landscapes, and sites are conserved.

The values, doctrines, and methodologies of orthodox heritage practice do not consider marginalization, segregation, and exploitation of traditionally disenfranchised groups. Using Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) in the US as an example, this article argues that orthodox heritage practice’s neglect of crucial social trends limit citizen empowerment and decision-making abilities for traditionally disenfranchised groups in heritage recovery, management, and planning after disaster. A sequential mixed-method approach can expand the role of heritage professionals from regulators to facilitators by adopting participatory methods.

**HISP Final Projects (2018-2019)**

Katherine Boyle (AAHP)
Preserving an Ephemeral Landscape: The Outbuildings and Back Spaces of Eckley Miners’ Village, PA

Christine Dunham (CPHP)
Smart Growth and Historic Preservation Revisited: A Study of Three Small Cities Across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Ty Ginter (MHP)

Kelly Haley (ARHP)
Reclaiming Identity: Utilizing Historic Fabric to Revitalize Downtown Rochester

Kelly Schindler (MHP)
Understanding Millennials and Historic Preservation

Emma Schrantz (ARHP)
Green Beer: Preserving Dayton’s Industrial Legacy through Sustainable Brewing Practices

Meagan Staton (CPHP)
Cemetery Preservation Law

Daniela Tai (ARHP)
Seeking Asylum: Race, Memory, and the American Landscape

**HISP Certificates (2018-2019)**

Alia Abu-Douleh (ARCH)

John Hyche (MAA)

Ben Skolnik (Anthro-PHd)

**URSP/HISP PhD (2019)**

Johnna Blythe Semmer
*User Understanding of Heritage in the Environment: Preservation Strategies for Assessing Sense of Place*
HISP Internships (2018-2019)

Sara Baum
National Park Service, Antietam National Battlefield
Resource Management Division

Chris Bryan
Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning

Grace Davenport
Vaughan Woods & Historic Homestead

Amy Duan
Davis Buckley Architects

Christine Dunham
Anne Arundel County Cultural Resources Division and
Smithsonian Institution

Ty Ginter
Conservation Solutions, Inc.

Josette Graham
Historic Annapolis, James Brice House Restoration

Kelly Haley
Quinn Evans Architects, Heritage Conservation Studio

Kathleen Jockel
Thunderbird Archaeology

Veronica Martin
Advisory Council for Historic Preservation

Tamara Schlossenberg
Anthropology Department Field School, County Cork, Ireland

Meagan Staton
MNCPPC, Historic Preservation Section

Daniela Tai
Quinn Evans Architects

Hassan Bin Tariq
MNCPPC, Historic Preservation Section

HISP Awards (2019)

Director’s Award – Ty Ginter

Prince George’s Heritage Fellowship Award – Sara Baum

St. Clair Wright Award – Sam Bohmfalk

Outstanding GA Award – Grace Davenport

Outstanding GA Award – Veronica Martin
Katie Boyle
Is a contractor working with NPS on assessing archeological sites at parks throughout the region.

Jennifer Carpenter
Is the Preservation Services Team Lead for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Jamesha Gibson
Had her chapter, “Defining Partnership in Post-disaster Historic Preservation Practice” accepted in the book *Enduring Significance of Arnstein’s Ladder*.

Ty Ginter
Currently works at Cultural Resource Analyst, Inc. in Richmond, VA as an Architectural Historian. They continue to work on transcribing oral histories of the LGBTQ community in the DMV area.

Tom Gross
In his position as a Planner with MNCPPC, he is serving as the staff liason for the Fall 2019 HISP Studio, focused on traditional African American communities in southern Prince George’s County.

Christine Henry
Is an Assistant Professor in the Historic Preservation Department at the University of Mary Washington. She joined the HISP Technical Advisory Committee last spring.

Justin Kockritz
Is the Lead Project Reviewer for the Texas Historical Commission and TxDOT liason.

Lucy Moore
Currently works at Quinn Evans as a Preservation Architect. Her recent work includes the renovation of a brutalist library in Minneapolis, MN and a historic structure report for the National Park Service on the Carter Barron Amphitheater (1950), which she will be presenting at the upcoming DC History Conference on November 23.

Kacy Rohn
Holds the position of Community Development Coordinator for the city of College Park, Maryland. Kacy continues to make presentations in various venues on the topic of the Women’s Suffrage Movement in Maryland, which was the main subject of her internship with the Maryland Historical Trust.

Kelly Schindler
Has been promoted to the position of Senior Manager for Historic Sites Development for the National Trust.

Emma Schrantz
Is a Designer II in the Interior Architecture studio at Streetsense, a multidisciplinary design firm, where her current research focuses on the intersection of sustainable urbanism and craft brewing as a creative solution for historic districts.

Meagan Staton
Works as a Planner for the Greenville County, South Carolina, Planning Department.

Daniela Tai
Began working at Quinn Evans architecture this past June.

Elizabeth Totten
Is now with the Public Archaeology Laboratory in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. She will be preparing tax credit applications.

Camille Westmont
This fall began a two-year appointment as a teaching PostDoc at Sewanee University in Tennessee.
UMDHISP: The future, not the past.