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School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation  
Maryland's Built Environment School



## MAPP Students Take a Bite Out of the Big Apple

By Brianna Rhodes  
April 26, 2024

Town centers, skyscrapers and construction sites became classrooms for 30 MAPP students during a three-day trip to New York City earlier this month.

Sponsored by the Colvin Institute for Real Estate Development, the trip offered graduate and undergraduate students the chance to meet Maryland alums who work in the real estate, urban planning and architecture spaces and learn about their latest projects, professional journeys and career opportunities.

"The idea for the field trip was born in a meeting with a group of New York City architects and developers who came together last year to learn more about the new undergraduate program in urban development," said Dean **Dawn Jourdan**. "They wanted to give our students the New York City experience and raised the funds to do so as a part of a Giving Day challenge."

"There was a huge demand by the students to participate in the trip," she added. "We were able to include students from all of the programs in the School. Not only were they able to see the city and meet dedicated UMD alums, they got to know each other and better understand the skills each brings to the development landscape."

[View Gallery](#)

## Industry Events & Outreach



March 19-23, Professors **Tanya Bansal** and **Dr. Jesse Saginor** attended the 40th Annual ARES Conference in Orlando, FL. The conference hosted 255 presentations on critical themes, including capital markets, geopolitics, and emerging technologies. Both participated on panels about real estate education, mentoring, affordable housing, and urban economics.



April 9-11, Professor **Dr. John Park** and Staffer **Carrie Chard** attended ULI's Spring Meeting in New York City, NY. The conference is one of the largest gatherings for cross-disciplinary real estate professionals which explores how trends in new technology and changing consumer demands, shifting economic conditions, and government policies which are shaping real estate markets across the globe.

## Spring Lecture: Buildings for People



On March 28th, the Colvin Institute hosted its annual lecture and book signing. **Dr. Justin Hollander**, Ph.D., FAICP, Professor in the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University gave a lecture entitled Buildings for People: Responsible Real Estate Development and Planning. The lecture was based on his newly released book that explores how to balance social concerns with financial and investment considerations without sacrificing profit.



The interdisciplinary lecture provided key technical and practical knowledge while exploring real estate development and planning through a multi-level lens - revealing the systemic factors that both govern and are governed by the real estate process. A reception and book signing were held prior to the lecture. The Colvin Institute would like to thank Dr. Hollander for his time and generosity.



## MRED Alumni Panel

On March 11th, The Colvin Institute, the Real Estate Club (REC) and SoRED hosted an MRED alumni panel on campus. Professor Tanya Bansal MRED '14 moderated the panel of industry experts that shared their academic experience along with tips on how to navigate a career in real estate development.

A special thank you to **Nick Finelli** MRED '18, Vice President - Public Institutions, JLL; **Tyler Grote** MRED '18, Executive Vice President, Osprey Property Companies; **Akiel Pyant** MRED '19, Leasing Representative, Rappaport and **Ilakkiya Thambi** MRED '18, Development Manager, Comstock Companies.



Please join us at the Pan-African City Exposition as we partner with the US Africa Collaborative and Bowie State University to sponsor a symposium, plenary sessions, breakout sessions and exhibitions that is open to housing and human settlement professionals, educators, government and elected officials, NGOs, real estate development professionals, and students in the US and throughout the African Diaspora. The theme of this year's event, Sustainability, Resilience, Recovery, Equity, Inclusion, and Planning will drive robust discussions, knowledge exchange, networking opportunities, future investments, and collaboration.

Register



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