

Center for Historic Preservation  
1301 College Ave  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

# UMW HISTORIC PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER

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Dear Readers,

We welcome you to our Spring 2016 Newsletter! As of 2012, the newsletter has gone digital. This new format will allow us to put out newsletters more regularly. If you would like to receive a digital copy of the newsletter, go to [cas.umw.edu/hisp/](http://cas.umw.edu/hisp/) > About > Newsletter and fill out the form.

Thank you for reading!

- The Department of Historic Preservation

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION CLUB TAKES SPRING TRIP TO CHARLESTON, WV

This semester the Historic Preservation club took a trip to Charleston, West Virginia, for the annual Spring Trip; a weekend long adventure during the spring semester. We left the Mary Washington campus on Friday, April 1st, and the drive was no April fools joke. After five and half hours of snacks, 90s music, and lots of laughter, our four car caravan arrived in Charleston. We were restless to get moving and explore the city and it wasn't a hard decision to make, deciding to go out and eat dinner. After walking around a couple blocks, we realized that a warm Friday night had everyone eating out in downtown Charleston and we finally found a table at a local sports bar and grille. Dinner was spent talking about classes, the rest of the trip, and the game of Jeopardy that we all were listening to intently at the restaurant. After dinner we made our way back to the hotel for a couple of games of spoons (with pencils) and an early bedtime to prepare for the long day ahead. We woke up Saturday morning to head to breakfast before going to the Craik-Patton House.



Students at the Thurmond train station, April 2016

When we arrived we were greeted by Hayes Strader the AmeriCorps member for Craik-Patton. He started outside with telling us about how they interpret the house, where it came from, and how the home had been moved three times, ending up in the location where it is now. The structure was built in 1834, and the guides there interpret it as a Greek revival structure, pointing out the four Doric columns holding the porch of the middle portion of the structure. We then went into the house itself and Mr. Strader explained the history of the families that had lived in the Craik-Patton house starting with the Craiks. The home only interprets the lives of the Craiks and the Pattons. Dr. Craik was the Surgeon General during the French and Indian War

where he became friends with our very own George Washington. They were so close in fact, that Dr. Craik named his son, George Washington Craik. The Craik-Patton house even has a reproduction of George Washington's writing desk, and placed it where the original may have stood after George passed away and willed the writing desk to Dr. Craik.

Located right next to the Craik-Patton house was a large log building, which is called the Ruffner Log House. This log home was built sometime between 1797 and 1800 in Charleston and moved to its current site in 1976. When the original site was set to be bought and developed in the early 1970's the Kanawha Valley Historical and Preservation Society raised funds to move the logs and have them preserved and stored so that the home could be reconstructed. That happened in 1976 when the house was rebuilt with the original wooden logs, as well as logs from another historic log house.

Mr. Strader was kind enough to let us into the Ruffner Log House, after telling us its history, where we were able to explore the three downstairs rooms as well as the attic/upstairs room. When we were finished we took our traditional club picture on the steps of the Craik-Patton house and we got in our cars and drove off to see more sites.

We drove around some more looking at the landscape and enjoying Charleston, when we decided to visit the West Virginia State Capital. After getting inside we roamed around admiring the marble that came from seven different states to build the structure. The large marble columns and staircases were awe-inspiring. After taking pictures hugging columns and standing on the steps to the capital we went into the West Virginia State Museum, located right next door. The museum has a large walk through portion that allows visitors to explore all of West Virginia's history starting from 3200 BC to present day. This was a gorgeous museum with interactives, different mood lighting, and animatronic people that spoke first-person accounts of the history. All of us were enthralled with this large museum and at all the information that was presented. After spending a good amount of time exploring the museum, we visited the gift shop (of course), and went out for lunch.

Following lunch we drove around the local neighborhoods looking at the various different styles of houses, there was a little bit of everything from colonial revival to mid-century modern. We arrived back at the hotel later in the afternoon and went out downtown to explore some of the smaller shops that Charleston had to offer before we all met up for dinner at a small pizza joint called Pies and Pints. We enjoyed some delicious pizza and then followed it up with a nice cup of ice cream before heading back to the hotel to pack and get ready to leave Sunday morning.



Students on the steps of Craik-Patton, April 2016

When morning arrived, we all packed up the caravan and left Charleston behind. We had a long day ahead of us and we couldn't wait to get back on the road. First we drove to Nuttallburg, WV. Nuttallburg was a coal mining town in West Virginia. It is located in the New River Valley Gorge National Park and was documented and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. We explored the ruins and took pictures then made our way out of the valley and to our lunch stop, the Secret Sandwich Society. After enjoying some delicious sandwiches named after presidents we then went to our last stop, the town of Thurmond, WV. The small town of Thurmond was a prosperous town in the coal mining heydays, but since has dwindled and become a ghost town of sorts. We explored the buildings that were still standing and then finally piled back into the cars one last time.

After arriving back to campus, we were all exhausted. It had been quite a weekend full of adventure, and we have memories that are certainly going to last a lifetime. As we look back now we can say, with certainty, we experienced the "wild and wonderful" West Virginia.

-Laura Gilchrist 17'

# STUDENTS ATTEND NATIONAL TRUST CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON D.C LED BY PROFESSOR HENRY

In the fall of 2015 students from the Department of Historic Preservation had the opportunity to go to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's annual conference. The conference, titled Past Forward, took place only a mere fifty miles from campus, in Washington D.C. This presented an amazing opportunity for students to attend this three-day conference jam-packed with historic preservation.

On the first day of the conference, we all tried to get into the session that was a mixer for young professionals, but much to our dismay the room was packed and too crowded so we went out to explore the hotel and plan out our next day. That evening we were awed by the opening plenary and reception, held at the National Cathedral. As we sat in the transept of the cathedral we listened as the President and Chief Executive Officer, Stephanie Meeks, talked about the fascinating things preservationists had done the previous year. For most of us, this was our first preservation conference and we were hooked on the very first night. While the opening plenary awarded leading preservationists for their work, our award was getting to mingle and talk to the professionals during the reception.



Students at the opening reception in the National Cathedral, November 2015,

For the next few days we traveled up to Washington D.C by train, car, or Metro finding ourselves enthralled at the various topics presented. One session, discussed the preservation of historic buildings on college campuses, and we couldn't help think about our own college campus and its preservation. While they finished the presentation discussing larger college campuses we were able to offer the insight in how our department was advocating for preservation throughout the campus. After contributing to the discussion we left for our next session feeling like we were ready to tackle any discussion thrown our way. The next session was a paneled session on interpretation at historic sites across the United States and how they dealt with controversial subjects, multiple storylines, and opposing ideas. We also had the opportunity to walk through the "exhibition hall" where there were graduate schools for historic preservation and other associations that concerned historic preservation such as the National Barn Alliance and the Civil War Trust.

It was moments like this, that we as students realized that we were the next generation of preservation professionals and we could be attending conferences like this for years to come. As the weekend came to an end, we wrapped up our last sessions and made our way back to Fredericksburg. Reflecting on the experience of attending this national conference now, it is an adventure that we won't soon forget.

-Laura Gilchrist 17'



*Campus Buildings: New and Old* is a series that will provide a short history of a different campus building each semester. Keep on the look out for your favorite building in the coming semesters!

# CAMPUS BUILDINGS: NEW AND OLD

## MARYE HOUSE: 1912-PRESENT

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Charles M. Robinson, who had designed Monroe and Willard Halls in 1910, was contracted to design a house for the school's president in 1911. The design, which he created, was too grand and therefore an alternative plan was proposed in 1912 by E.G. "Peck" Heflin, who was a local contractor. The construction of what would become Marye House began on the former site of the Beckwith or Alms house which had been previously moved to make way for construction. The home was styled in Colonial Revival, as was typical of the period in Fredericksburg. This differed from the previously built Monroe and Willard Halls that were used in a more academic style of Roman Classicism.

President Russell, the first president of the Fredericksburg Normal and Industrial School, and his family moved into Marye house in the fall of 1912 where they resided until his resignation in 1919.

The following President, President Chandler, was given the option to live in Marye House but instead decided to remain at his residence on College Avenue; it is known today as Fairfax Hall. Instead of remaining vacant President Chandler re-appropriated the house as a residence for faculty. Marye House remained in this use until President Combs took residence in 1928. He and his family would remain at Marye House until 1946 when Framar was purchased.

After 1946 the building was again divided and used for dorm rooms and as the Spanish house. In 1953, with the construction of Randolph and Mason, Marye House was moved to the north in its current location and re-oriented to face campus.

Today the building serves as the offices for Residence Life, Commuter Student Services, and Judicial Affairs. Cedric Rucker, Associate Vice President and Dean of Student Life also has his office in Marye House.



Marye House, January 2016, Laura Gilchrist

-Laura Gilchrist '17

*History from the University of Mary  
Washington Preservation Plan authored by  
Professor Michael Spencer*

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION CLUB

## VISITS THE MENOKIN FOUNDATION

On February 20th, a group of Historic Preservation Club members ventured to Warsaw, Virginia, a small town southeast of Fredericksburg. There, nestled back a dirt road, is a unique preservation feat. Menokin was the former home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Almost two hundred years after it was built in 1769, a tree fell on the house, destroying most of the structure. Recently, the Menokin Foundation has developed a plan to turn what is left into a house of stone and glass.

The first thing on our agenda after arriving at Menokin was meeting with Alice French, the Education and Outreach Coordinator at Menokin Foundation. Alice took us through the museum space at the Visitor's Center and gave us the history of Menokin. We got the chance to explore the wood storage room as well as the conservation barn where pieces of the original roof are kept. Lucky for us, we were able to see Menokin's original dining room wood features which were recently returned to the property after being on exhibit at the Virginia Historical Society. After we saw all of the pieces that were preserved away from the structure, we headed up to the house.

Currently, there are two corners of the house and two chimneys standing, but the rest of the building has fallen away. Alice took us around the structure where she pointed out craftsmen marks that show the process used during construction as well as the remnants of the once terraced backyard. When we returned to the front façade of the building, Alice removed the "No Admittance" sign and led us up the stairs to explore in the interior.



Students in front of Menokin, February 2016

When we were done exploring the house and the nearby wooded area, we returned to the Visitor's Center to help with any tasks that the Foundation needed assistance with. A goal that the HISP Club has is to get more involved in the community and pitch-in whenever possible. On this trip, we were able to help with an archives project, gallery maintenance, and gift shop preparation. Overall, the experience was very rewarding and benefitted the Foundation.

Before leaving, the club took a slight detour down to Cat Point Creek to take in the view that Francis Lightfoot Lee would have had when he, and his wife Rebecca, lived on the property. The club would like to thank Alice French and the Menokin Foundation for showing us around their beautiful property and willing to take the risk of implementing such an innovative preservation project to save Menokin.

-Courtney Kuzemchak '17

# THE COLUMN:

Where do I even start with my love for this year's Preservation Club? Our members have been engaged, passionate, and diverse in their interests and our officers have been dedicated, hard working, and dependable. This is my third year involved with the club and I have never seen such a good group of people. If next year's club is half as involved as this year's, I'll be one happy president. The club has meant so much to me over the last three years, and I hope that I'm making it a special place for our younger members.

Onto this semester's events: On February 20th, a group of six of us visited Menokin in Warsaw, VA. We received an in-depth tour from Alice French, the Menokin Foundations' Outreach and Education Coordinator. It was informative, interesting, and well worth the drive down! On March 12th, we went down to Benny Vitali's on Caroline Street for our Spring Event. We enjoyed pizza slices as big as our faces and fun times with preservation friends.

On March 19th, we hosted our annual Victorian Ball in the Seacobeck Faculty/Staff Dining Room. This year's theme was "A Springtime Celebration". The night was spent dancing in hoop skirts, laughing at our small mistakes, and having a wonderful time with the dance caller and live musicians. On April 1-3 we went on our Spring Trip. We visited Charleston, West Virginia for the weekend and saw the Craik-Patton House, the State Capital and Museum, and even Nuttallburg, an old mining town hidden in the West Virginia Mountains. I've had so much fun as President this year and can't wait to do it all over again next year!

-Sarah Rogers '17



Students at a weekly meeting of HISP club, Sarah Rogers, 2016



# STUDENTS ATTEND VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS CONFERENCE IN WILLIAMSBURG LED BY PROFESSOR TURDEAN

This semester, students with the Department of Historic Preservation had the opportunity to attend the Virginia Association of Museums Conference. This event took place at the Colonial Williamsburg Lodge in Colonial Williamsburg, March 12-15. Students attended numerous presentations on innovative programs and activities in museums across Virginia.

On Sunday, March 12th, we arrived at Colonial Williamsburg for the first sessions. A couple of sessions piqued my interest in particular. One focused on creative performances such as theater productions, concerts, and art displays that compliment museum exhibitions. The other one, my absolute favorite, was titled "Tweet, Tweet, Tweetup!" and referred to a new event type, geared to social media and Twitter in particular. The purpose of Tweetup is to promote museums on social media while engaging visitors and non-visitors who come across museum hashtags. Conference participants who attended this presentation attended their own tweetup while taking a short tour of Colonial Williamsburg. Their hashtags #VAMTweetup and #VAM2016 were later mentioned in a VAM report on conference tweets.

After a long first day we drove back to Fredericksburg and got some rest before our second day in Williamsburg.



UMW students at the VAM Conference, March 2016



The next day we arrived at Combs Hall bright and early to start the drive to Williamsburg. We arrived in Williamsburg for our sessions and split up according to which session we wanted to attend. That morning I attended the session presented by the Menokin Foundation. The panel comprised individuals from all aspects of the museum such as the interim director and the architect for the glass portion of the house. This session was dedicated solely to Menokin and how they were creating a site out of ruins and how those ruins, in conjunction with the new innovative design was going to be a different museum setting than what has come before. The next session I attended was all about filming in museums. This was an interesting session because it looked at filming from all aspects of the museum, from the museums point of view, the film crew's point of view, and a curator's point of view. We discussed the preparations needed for filming in a museum, the dangers, and we discussed the positive outcomes such as publicity for a museum. Finally, some of us attended a third session called "What Employers Seek and How to Advance Your Career". This session was all about making people understand that you have a passion for what you do, and it really sparked something in all of us in attendance. We knew that we were passionate about museums, and learning that it was something that employer's look for was almost a relief.

At the end of the second day we tweeted out and passed around the news of a Mary Washington College and University of Mary Washington graduate meetup for a group picture. As we all grouped together it was amazing to see UMW past and present joined together by our love for museums. The VAM conference was an amazing experience and one that we won't soon forget.

-Laura Gilchrist, 17'



MWC and UMW graduates from the Historic Preservation Program at VAM, March 2016

# STUDENTS ATTEND MIDDLE ATLANTIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE IN VIRGINIA BEACH

From March 10th through March 13th, six students from the Department of Historic Preservation accompanied Professor Sanford to the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference (MAAC) in Ocean City, Maryland: Elyse Adams, Kara Saffos, Lenora Wiggs, Cheyenne Johnson, Fraser Wilson, and Marissa Kulis. Another student, Melanie Fuechsel, traveled on her own to join the gathering. This conference touches on prehistoric and historical archaeology topics in the mid-Atlantic region, ranging from pest management for archaeological collections to landscape as material culture. Cheyenne Johnson said “I liked how there were a great variety of papers that used different research techniques.”

MAAC provides students and professionals the opportunity to come together every year to share new archaeological techniques and to discuss projects that have been undertaken in the mid-Atlantic region. The students enjoyed topics ranging from “lost colonies” and ceramics, to tobacco pipes and witchcraft. MAAC stands out as a student-friendly organization that actively encourages student participation and presentations, while providing opportunities to network with professionals. This year, the University of

Mary Washington had three student presenters. Elyse Adams and Dr. Lauren McMillan gave a paper on the Civil War history of Sherwood Forest Plantation, the site of Mary Washington’s archaeology field school. Ceramic distribution at Sherwood Forest also was analyzed by Kara Saffos and Dr. McMillan. Marissa Kulis delivered a paper on the cultural context of medicine bottles recovered from the archaeological mitigation project for the commuter train station in Fredericksburg.

Other activities for students included a workshop on resume writing and a hands-on experience with virtual reality goggles that projected an archaeological site.

A “speed dating” session allowed

students to connect with representatives from graduate schools, cultural resource management firms, and federal agencies. “MAAC is a conference for everyone, whether you are into conservation, local government, academia, or cultural resource management,” Lenora Wiggs says.



Cheyenne Johnson, Fraser Wilson, Marissa Kulis, Lenora Wiggs, Elyse Adams and Kara Saffos with Professor Sanford at conference, March 2016

Elyse Adams remarked that “students have many opportunities to meet with incredibly supportive professionals in the field, and to discuss the next steps in our education such as how to build resumes, what to expect in graduate school, and even what to expect when beginning your job search.” Both students “highly recommend that students attend the MAAC,” finding it a great way to get involved.

The students expressed their appreciation for the support of the Center for Historic Preservation in making the conference trip possible. The Center covered the costs of the school van and hotel rooms. Having accommodations overlooking the beach and the Atlantic Ocean only helped the experience. Students interested in attending the 2017 MAAC in Virginia Beach should contact Professor Sanford.

-Professor Doug Sanford and Students

## **FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK!**

**FACEBOOK: DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AT MARY WASHINGTON**

**TWITTER: @UMWHISP**

# **HISP 463 CLASS CREATES TRAVELING EXHIBIT FOR JAMES MONROE MUSEUM**

This semester, students in HISP 463 course (*Museum Design and Interpretation Laboratory*) are planning a traveling exhibition for the James Monroe Museum and the Papers of James Monroe. The exhibition focuses on the tour of the Northern states that President Monroe took in 1817, shortly after beginning his first term in office. The exhibition will be on display at six historical societies in the states visited by President Monroe two hundred years ago.

To create the exhibition, students started by researching primary and secondary sources on James Monroe’s life and career as a Revolutionary War officer, public servant, and president. Afterwards, the class divided in three groups, each with responsibilities in developing the design, writing the labels and designing exhibition interactives.

The design team proposed the exhibition’s color scheme, placement of images and text, and the overall look of the panels. All these elements were discussed and decided in class discussions. The label writing team worked on the content of the exhibition and ways to present the most relevant facts in a format accessible to diverse audiences. The third team proposed ideas for exhibition components such as games and touchable artifacts for visitors to interact with and learn more about the exhibition content.

The interactive would be at every location and for all ages to enjoy after going through the exhibit.

As the semester comes to a close, the final pieces are coming together to create an exhibit and we can't wait to see the end result. The exhibition will be on display on campus at the end of the semester for the students to see the final result of all our work.

-Laura Gilchrist '17

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW HISP CLUB OFFICERS!**

### **2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT: SARAH ROGERS**

**VICE PRESIDENT: KATHLEEN ELLIOTT**

**TREASURER: COURTNEY KUZEMCHAK**

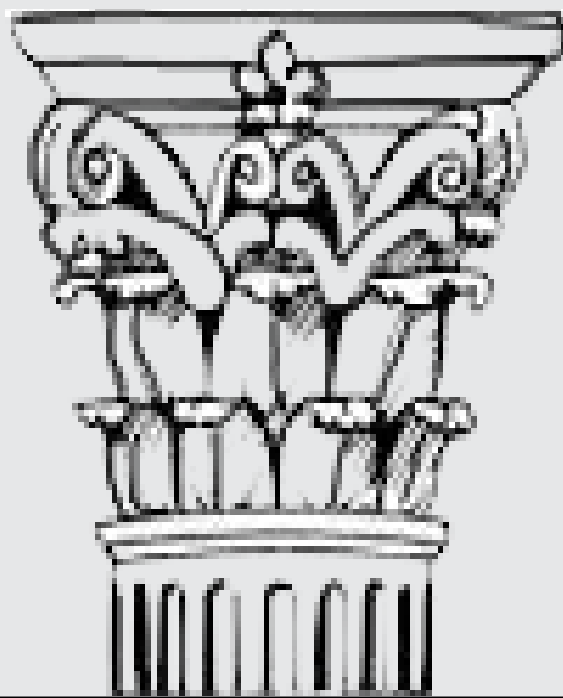
**SECRETARY: CAROLINE RALSTON**

**HISTORIAN: ALLIE CESPIVA**

**GHOSTWALK CHAIR: ILANA BLEICH**

**VICTORIAN BALL CHAIR: GRACIE HARDY**

**SPRING EVENT CHAIR: MADDIE FANTA**



*Newsletter Edited by: Laura Gilchrist '17*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Wednesday April 20, 2016: Department Picnic 5-7pm**

**Friday May 6, 2016: 3-5pm Senior Toast followed by Trivia Night 6-9pm at James Monroe Museum**

**Saturday May 7, 2016: UMW Undergraduate Graduation**