

Center for Historic Preservation
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UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON
CENTER FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Newsletter

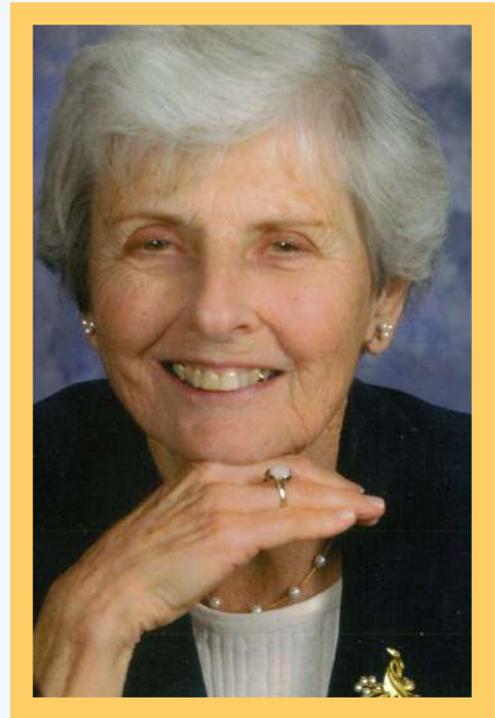
New Historic Preservation Scholarships / 2-3
Community-Engagement Projects with John J. Wright
Educational and Cultural Center Museum/ 4-5
Worlds Collide: Virginia 1619/ 6-7
Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference/ 8-9
Happenings in the Historic Preservation Club/ 10
2019 Career Fair/ 11
New Course in Professional Development/ 12

Spring 2019

NEW HISTORIC PRESERVATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year the Department of Historic Preservation gives out more than a dozen scholarships amounted to over \$60,000 to majors in the preservation program. Awarded on criteria of academic excellence or financial need, these scholarships have been privately funded through donations made by generous donors, including alumni of the program and supporters of historic preservation. Two endowed scholarship donations have been recently added to the department's portfolio.

Lt. Col. Arney M. Johnson Jr. USMC (Ret.) of Fredericksburg, Virginia created a scholarship in the memory of his wife Veronica S. (Ronnie) Johnson. She graduated with a degree in historic preservation from Mary Washington College in 1989. Afterwards she worked for a local archeological firm and volunteered at the Fredericksburg Area Museum. Veronica also joined the early efforts for preserving historical records at the Fredericksburg Courthouse. As a volunteer, she supported numerous other causes in the local community. The recipient of the Veronica S. Johnson '89 Scholarship recipient must be a declared major in historic preservation, show professional promise, and have a demonstrated financial need.



Veronica S. Johnson



Lilly Eghtessad (Class of 2020) - the first recipient of the Veronica S. Johnson '89 Scholarship



Dr. Kerri S. Barile

Through a recently created endowed scholarship for preservation students, Dovetail Cultural Resource Group in Fredericksburg, Virginia has strengthened even more its existing relationship with the Department of Historic Preservation. Over the course of years, numerous preservation majors have completed internships, volunteered, or found employment with this company, which is one of the most prominent cultural resource management firm in the Mid-Atlantic region. These opportunities have been spearheaded by Dovetail's president, Dr. Kerri S. Barile (Class of 1994), and vice-president, Michael L. Carmody. The new scholarship is awarded on criteria of academic excellence to a historic preservation student whose studies focus on archaeology or architectural history.

Lilly Eghtessad (Class of 2020) is the first recipient of the Veronica S. Johnson '89 Scholarship, and Frederick Altenburg (Class of 2020) is the first student to receive the Dovetail Cultural Resource Group Scholarship for Historic Preservation. These scholarships will make a significant difference in the work and life of these students.



Dr. Kerri Barile and Frederick Altenburg (Class of 2020) - the first recipient of the Dovetail Cultural Resource Group Scholarship

COMMUNITY-ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS WITH JOHN J. WRIGHT EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL CENTER MUSEUM

Community-engagement courses have been a hallmark of the Department of Historic Preservation since the early days of the program. During the Spring Semester 2019, two such courses completed projects in partnership with John J. Wright Educational and Cultural Center Museum, a local nonprofit whose mission is “to collect, archive, share and facilitate learning about the history of education, cultures and civic life of the African Americans of Spotsylvania County.”

Professor Turdean’s *Laboratory in Museum Design and Interpretation* (HISP 463) had the goal of planning a new permanent exhibition to replace the museum’s existing one, which had been on display since 2010 and had a dated design and interpretation. The fourteen students enrolled in the course – all of them seniors and majors in historic preservation, history or art history – had three months to revamp ca. 300 square feet of exhibition displays.

During the first part of the semester, the students researched archival materials, photographs, oral histories, and reports documenting the history of African American education in Spotsylvania County. The class then developed the exhibition’s main point and themes along with selecting the visuals and artifacts to illustrate the narrative. Afterwards, in smaller teams, the students wrote the interpretive text and designed the exhibition’s sixteen panels using Adobe InDesign – a desktop publishing software application. After the museum board approved the exhibition’s interpretive and design concept, Creative Color – a local printing company – produced the displays. A grant from Virginia Humanities covered the expenses with the fabrication of the panels. Titled “*For the People Had a Mind to Work*”: A Century of African American Education in Spotsylvania County, the exhibition was installed at the end of the semester.



Previous permanent exhibition



Sketch of the new exhibition (rendering created by Carolyn Currin (Class of 2019) in the *Computer Applications in Historic Preservation* (HISP345) course

Professor Henry's *Preservation in the Community* (HISP71) course varies in content from one semester to another, working in partnership with community-directed projects. During the spring semester, in response to John J. Wright Educational and Cultural Center Museum's needs, the class conducted oral history interviews with community members who have first-hand experiences with one-room schools in Spotsylvania County. The students spent the first part of the semester learning about best practices in oral history, from asking conversation-starting questions to making interviewees feel comfortable with the recording setting. Students were also required to keep a journal with reflections on their research, challenges, and learning process.

At the end of the semester, senior Carolyn Currin (Class of 2019), who completed both of these courses, said, "It has been wonderful working with the J.J. Wright Museum in collecting oral histories and developing a new exhibition. The museum has so many stories worth telling and students learned how to collect and share them." Carolyn's testimonial perfectly summarizes the benefits of these project-based courses. On the one hand, while learning by doing, students provide valuable professional assistance to a community organization in need. At the same time, through the partnership with the Department of Historic Preservation, John J. Wright Educational and Cultural Center Museum expanded its collection of oral histories and overhauled its main exhibition space.



Preservation in the Community students conducting oral histories



MIDDLE ATLANTIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

In March 2019, Professor McMillan and several students attend the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference (MAAC) in Ocean City, Maryland. Five students presented independent research projects at the conference. Student participants Shannon Bremer (Class of 2019) and Olivia Larson (Class of 2019) have shared with us their take on the conference.

“MAAC is a wonderful opportunity for students interested in archaeology to network with professionals and learn more about their field of interest. This was my second year presenting at MAAC and I enjoyed it just as much, if not more, than I did last year.

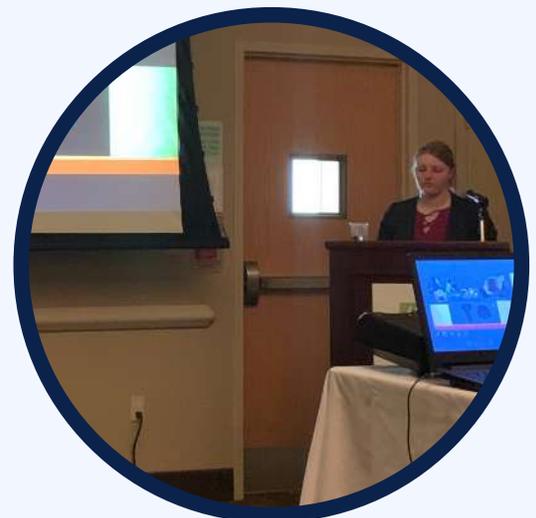
This year, I presented my paper, ‘A Soldier’s Words: Literacy and Writing at Sherwood Forest Plantation during the Civil War.’ In my presentation, I discussed what letters written by soldiers, officers, and surgeons tell us about the historic events and on-goings occurring at the plantation during the war.

Even though I did not enter the student paper competition, I enjoyed presenting my research findings. The conference provides students with the great opportunity of researching an archaeology topic that they are interested in and also learning how to give a presentation in front of a large audience.

I also had the chance to see a few presentations given by my peers and professionals in the archaeological world. One of the most interesting presentations was given by Kerry González of Dovetail Cultural Resource Group in Fredericksburg. Her presentation, “Early Dentistry from a Native American Burial in the Southern Chesapeake Region, Virginia” discussed



UMW students at MAAC



Shannon Bremer presenting at MAAC

evidence of prehistoric dentistry discovered by researchers when examining the dental remains of a Native American male.

During the conference, the MAAC Student Committee also held an Archaeology Olympics that featured archaeology-themed games based on knowledge of lab skills. My classmates and I participated but while we didn't win Jeopardy, we won the ceramic speed-mending competition! In other conference events, students networked with one another as well as with professionals attending the conference.

I'm sad that this was my last year at MAAC as a student presenter. It is such an amazing and fun experience so I only hope that I can attend in the future as a professional!"

-Shannon Bremer (Class of 2019)

"The Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference was a great opportunity to see what other students, professors, and professional archaeologists in the Mid-Atlantic are researching. Several students from Mary Washington, including myself, participated in presenting research we have been conducting throughout the semester. I presented my paper titled, 'Debitage Analysis and Interpretation of a Prehistoric Site in Burlington County, New Jersey,' which is based on research I did as an intern at Dovetail CRG in Fredericksburg.

I highly recommend this conference to any student interested in archaeology. It is a great way to share research findings, network with emerging scholars and professionals, and stay up to date about archaeological research in the Mid-Atlantic region."

-Olivia Larson (Class of 2019)



Olivia Larson presenting at MAAC



UMW students at MAAC



WORLDS COLLIDE: VIRGINIA 1619

The course offerings in the Department of Historic Preservation feature numerous Special Topics (HISP471) courses that serve as electives in the major and give professors the freedom to explore and teach subjects related to their professional interests. This spring, in conjunction with state-wide commemorations of the 400th anniversary of several key events, including the establishment of the House of Burgesses and the arrival of the first Africans to English North America and a large retinue of English women to Jamestown, Virginia in 1619, Prof. McMillan taught the course *Worlds Collide: Virginia 1619*. The class focused on the year 1619 as a pivotal time that laid the foundation for the interactions among Native Virginians, enslaved Africans, and Europeans.

Prof. McMillan designed this class to help students hone skills in archaeology, preservation, and history and also become familiar with the historical context of the events that took place in 1619. Students were challenged to question the ways in which Jamestown and Colonial America are remembered and commemorated today from the perspective of the actual historical narrative. Students were required to analyze how popular-culture shows and books portray Jamestown for general audiences in relationship to historically accurate events and interactions. While the events of 1619 served as the focus of this class, the Racial Integrity Act of 1924 was also discussed in the context of its implications for Native Americans living in Virginia throughout much of the twentieth century.

The course also provided out-of-classroom experiences. During the spring break, the students volunteered in an archaeological survey of a Native Virginia site in Stafford County, Virginia, in partnership with the Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia. During the following weeks, in the archaeology lab, they washed the artifacts they had retrieved. They also met with Chief Anne Richardson of the Rappahanock Tribe in King and Queen County, Virginia to learn about the history of the tribe prior to and after European colonization. Later in the



David Givens discussing the Angela site



semester, the students visited the Jamestown Settlement to observe the museum's interpretation of the events of 1619, with a tour by Kate Gruber (Class of 2008) focused on women in 17th-century Virginia. In a public talk sponsored by the Center for Historic Preservation, David Givens, Director of Archaeology at Jamestown Rediscovery, discussed his most recent work on the site related to Angela, an Angolan woman in the first group of enslaved Africans to arrive to English North America in 1619.

Abigail Phelps (Class of 2021) spoke very enthusiastically about this class. She enjoyed the archaeological work during the spring break and remarked on how this course, in conjunction with all the others taught by Prof. McMillan, has helped her gain a broader and more accurate understanding of the beginnings of the British colonies in North America.



Students' touring Jamestown Settlement with Kate Gruber (Class of 2008)



Students and members of the Patawomeck Tribe conducting archaeological work during Spring Break

HAPPENINGS IN THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION CLUB

As a member of the Historic Preservation Club since my freshman year, I participated in numerous fun meetings and events. One of the most memorable moments from this spring semester was our day trip to Montpelier in Orange, Virginia. Jenniffer Powers (class of 2014), Senior Museum Technician with James Madison's Montpelier, gave us a behind-the-scenes tour of this historic house museum. We learned about the restoration process that brought the building to its ca. 1812 Madison-era appearance, including the removal of the pink stucco added by a later owner and the repositioning of the pediment to its current position above the main entrance. The tour of the house gave us insight into how the Montpelier staff chooses and interprets objects to go on display. Our club members are incredibly grateful to all HISP graduates who have hosted our visits to various museums and historic sites over the course of years as it has given us a better understanding of the career paths we can follow after our graduation from the University of Mary Washington. "

-Sasha Erpenbach

HISP major (Class of 2020) & Ghostwalk 2018 Chair



HISP Club members touring historic Annapolis, MD



HISP Club members in front of James Madison's Montpelier

"In addition to club meetings and day trips, one of the Historic Preservation Club's biggest events is the spring trip, in which we take a weekend-long trip to a historic city outside of Fredericksburg. This year, our travels took us to Annapolis, Maryland. With a turnout of eighteen students, the trip was a great success! We began with a tour of the William Paca House, a historic house museum about one of Maryland's signers of the Declaration of Independence. Next, we were fortunate enough to have a behind-the-scenes hard-hat tour of the intensive restoration of the James Brice House. On the following day, we met with the Vice President of Preservation with Historic Annapolis (HA). Annapolis City Dock was listed on the National Register of Historic Preservation's Eleven Most Endangered list in 2018, and HA has been an important advocate for this place. We discussed how to preserve and protect the historic fabric of City Dock while looking towards its future. Our trip was so successful in part because there was something for everyone--museum-lovers, architectural historians, conservationists, and planners!"

-Ilana Bleich

HISP major (Class of 2019) & HISP Club Historian

2019 CAREER FAIR

Each year the Center for Historic Preservation organizes a career fair to assist current students with learning more about their post-graduation career paths. Because most guest speakers are graduates of the program, this event also helps preservation majors to meet alumni and initiate their first contacts with preservation professionals.

This year's career fair took place in March and featured **Dr. Brad Hatch** (Class of 2007) Archaeology Staff Manager, Dovetail Cultural Resource Group, Fredericksburg, Virginia; **Rebecca Jameson**, Historian, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park; **Audra Medve** (Class of 2012), Project Manager, Historic Sites CIP Program, Prince William County Historic Preservation Division; **Megan Rosengrant** (Class of 2015), Senior Collections Technician, Photography Specialist, SEARCH, Richmond, Virginia; **Heather Staton** (Class of 2007) Architectural History Staff Manager, Dovetail Cultural Resource Group, Fredericksburg, Virginia. Topics of discussion included identifying employment opportunities, the federal hiring process, and honing interview skills. Each speaker approached these subjects from their respective preservation field and included personal experiences regarding hiring staff and finding employment.

The room was packed with HISP students ranging from seniors to underclassmen considering a major in preservation. The informal nature of the event encouraged them to ask numerous questions and have one-on-one interactions with the panelists.

Career Fair panelists



NEW COURSE IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This spring, to respond to the needs of current seniors as they prepare to join the work force, the Department of Historic Preservation has added a one-credit professional development course to its offerings. While the University of Mary Washington offers similar workshops and classes to help the general population of students, this course is specifically geared towards preservation students.

HISP faculty will rotate off in teaching this course every spring semester. Prof. Smith, who serves as class instructor this year, focuses on teaching students how to write resumes, identify job opportunities, navigate the USA Jobs website, and interview. The format of the class gives students the opportunity to ask questions and work on their interpersonal skills in a judgement-free environment. Because Prof. Smith still remembers her own job search as a stressful and lonely task, she is encouraging students to form a support community and assist each other through the process.

The overwhelmingly positive response of HISP seniors to this new course highlighted the existing student need for such an experience. Student Carolyn Currin (Class of 2019) noted that the course helped her gain more confidence in applying for jobs. Olivia Larson (Class of 2019) learned about new job boards and ways for adjusting resumes to job descriptions. The course also teaches students to have realistic expectations from the job market and this way approach the job hunt process with less stress.

Prof. Smith remarked that this new course in conjunction with the Graduate School and Career Fairs organized by the Center for Historic Preservation prepare HISP students more than ever for a successful career after graduation from the University of Mary Washington.

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