

University of Mary Washington
Center for Historic Preservation
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Fredericksburg, VA 22401

HISTORIC PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020

What's Inside

COVID-19: Moving Forward in a Time of Uncertainty: 2-3

Honoring the Class of 2020: 4-6

The Column: 7

Saturday Night Movie Series with Prof. Smith: 8

***Preserving Diversity* Exhibition in Combs Hall: 9**

Prof. McMillan's Sherwood Forest Project: 9-10

Historic Preservation Alumni in Fredericksburg: 11

Senior Research Project: Delaney Resweber: 12

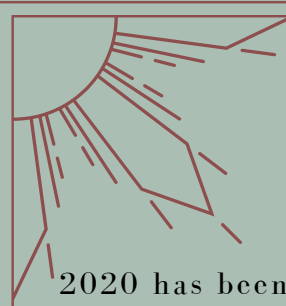
Introducing the *Voussoirs* Webpage: 13

Fall 2020 Grad School Fair: 14



This publication enters your inbox at the end of the second academic semester that has been dramatically impacted by COVID. This issue of the newsletter gives you insight into the ways in which students and faculty in the Department of Historic Preservation have responded to these unprecedented times. Class of 2020 graduated as planned, new students have declared their major, regular courses continued to be taught, and numerous projects came to completion. Having made it this far gives us confidence in our strength and capacity to respond to challenges by persistence and relying on each other.

We wish you Happy Holidays and a Joyous New Year 2021!



2020 has been an extraordinary year, different from anything we have experienced in our lifetime. While the fear of the unknown gripped everyone back in March when UMW switched to online learning, as the summer and the fall unfolded, new ways to cope with the COVID reality and to come together as a community became apparent. Professors were just as hardly tried as students as they had to rethink their work and strive for ways to maintain high-quality teaching standards while keeping everyone safe. Student aide Lizzy (Elizabeth) Goodloe touched base with HISP faculty to learn about how they adapted to these challenges.

During the summer, the Center for Teaching and the Digital Learning Support at UMW conducted a month-long series of virtual workshops meant to assist faculty in their transition to online courses. Participants received training in communicating with students in and outside the classroom, using tools for alternative solutions to in-class lectures, converting course material to an online format, managing group projects and class activities as well as assessing student work online. HISP professors spent the summer planning the fall semester. Some opted for a full online format for their fall courses while others chose a hybrid format that combined in-person, socially distanced class meetings with virtual work. With no exception, the content and the format of all courses in the major was revamped.

One might assume the frustration going along with this task but Prof. Henry and Prof. Turdean refuted this premise. Prof. Henry said that rethinking her courses was a way to keep the topics and pedagogical approaches fresh. Prof. Turdean also reassessed the

COVID-19: Moving Forward in a Time of Uncertainty





Historic Preservation Faculty, August 2020

learning objectives, content, and assignments in all her courses and found the process surprisingly energizing. Half way through the fall semester, she found that students responded very well to these changes and the students' level of engagement in class discussions and group activities was comparable, if not superior, to that in previous "in-person" versions of the courses.


Historic Preservation is a hands-on field. With material that is best delivered in person so students can see and practice the tools of the trade, Prof. Spencer and Prof. McMillan had to get creative. Prof. Spencer reorganized his class schedules so that the projects with a heavy practical component were completed first, in case the school were to close down again. He quoted a colleague who said that this adjustment of courses "is a bit like teaching your first year." Prof. McMillan also reconstructed her lectures and class activities, admitting that she shifted her mode of thinking about her methods.

Prof. Smith expressed pride in the entire department putting in the work to make the preservation disciplines teachable in a mostly online environment. Preservation is


a practical field, where professionals find main purpose in protecting the surroundings of communities and supporting the public good. Doing that when everyone quarantines is challenging but HISP faculty have created feasible alternatives to continue their mission.

Prof. Hubbard supports this point, "I have been both awed and inspired by the response of my colleagues in the Department of Historic Preservation. Their intense dedication to and concern for our students has been unparalleled.

"We are committed to providing the best environment possible to learn preservation," said Prof. Henry, "and that hasn't changed with this uncertainty but, of course, solutions sometimes have changed." Prof. Hubbard added, "We are all learning to cope, and I have been focusing on the positives I see within our department. Historic Preservation has indeed been preserving the best of our traditions of an intense, student-focused learning experience, and it's an honor to play my small role supporting it. Our students are the best, and we're working hard to make them even better!"



The shutdown of the campus this past spring prevented the senior class from enjoying the traditional ceremonies that mark the end of college. 33 Historic Preservation majors missed walking across the stage in Ball Circle in the acclaims of families and friends, attending the HISP Senior Toast at James Monroe Museum, taking photos around the campus, and going to end-of-the-year parties. It all ended quietly and almost unnoticed, except for the virtual graduation ceremony that was hosted by the Department of Historic Preservation in May. A few members of the Class of 2020 remember their final days as undergraduate students as well as their most memorable moments at UMW.

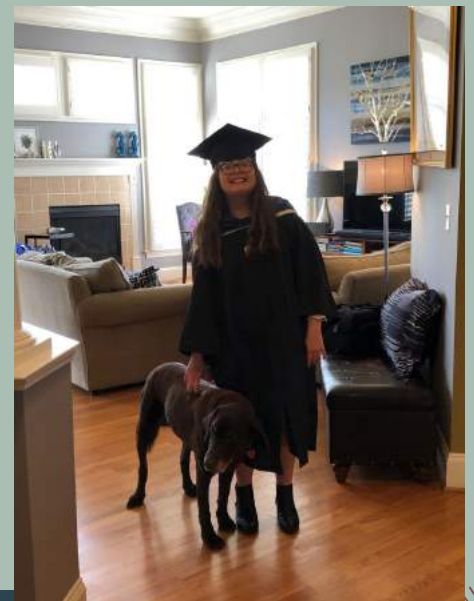


Honoring the Class of 2020



Grace Smith celebrated her graduation “with a glass of champagne and that was it.” Her greatest memories about UMW relate to time she spent with faculty, learning and picking up wisdom from them. Grace specialized in architectural history and building conservation. The lockdown delayed her efforts to find employment but, at the time she was interviewed for this material, she had been offered a Client Liaison position with Kjellstrom and Lee.

Winnie (Christina) Cargill, a former student aide in the department, attended the Zoom graduation event from her backyard, surrounded by family and friends. Winnie is one of our recent graduates who also earned a GIS Certificate. This fall she returned to school as a graduate student in Historic Preservation and Community Planning at the University of Maryland, College Park. Winnie is most fond about the friends she made while a student at UMW, which includes former professors and staff members.



Sasha (Alexandra) Erpenbach, a former student aide in the department, focused on museum studies and GIS courses (she also earned a GIS Certificate). In her book, nothing compared to making new friends, working on campus, and studying. In March she returned home (Knoxville, TN) and after graduation she moved to Brookneal, Virginia to intern with the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation. At the end of her internship, Sasha was offered a position in Visitor Services, which led to additional projects. She is currently photographing objects for the museum's online catalog and creating SketchUp models of historic structures on the property for the foundation's virtual outreach projects. Sasha has been accepted in the Graduate Program in Museum Studies at The George Washington University and will start the coursework next year.



Photo by Jeremiah Estanislao

Honoring the Class of 2020



Screenshot from the Virtual Graduation Ceremony, May 2020



Because **Claire Parkey's** hometown is five hours away from Fredericksburg, when the school shut down, she stayed on campus as long as she could and then moved to Richmond. No special festivities marked her graduation. Plans to complete a summer internship in transportation planning for a railroad company did not come to fruition. Her greatest memories as a student were babysitting Professor Smith's youngest daughter and getting the go ahead on her Honor Thesis. Claire plans to attend grad school next year and specialize in Urban Planning.



Tessa Honeycutt recalls how her “world turned upside down when the campus closed.” She attended the Zoom event hosted by the department. As a HISP major, Tessa identifies building forensics and conservation as her field of study. After graduation, she has stayed in the Fredericksburg area and hopes to find internships or employment here. By far, her greatest memory at UMW was the trip to Paris in the summer of 2019. It was “...so amazing to learn first-hand about international preservation. Having the opportunity to walk around Paris and geek out about all old buildings with some of my closest friends was a highlight of my life!”

Kyett (Lillian) Salamone got together around a big chocolate cake with a few friends and family to attend the virtual graduation on Zoom. Kyett’s memories blend extra-curricular and academic moments. For four years, Kyett was a member of the Rich Weirdos Club that stages the Rocky Horror Picture Show every year. Kyett specialized in Archaeology in the Department of Classics and the Department of Historic Preservation. Fortunately, COVID had no effects on Kyett’s internship with Germanna Foundation and their ability to find employment with a CRM firm. Kyett also works part time as a freelance writer.



Isabella Gordineer finished her last courses and the spring internship from home and credits the HISP faculty for making it possible. She celebrated her B.A in Historic Preservation and GIS Certificate by attending the virtual graduation ceremony on Zoom. The summer came with an opportunity to work on a plaster restoration project, where skills she learned in school projects came in handy. Currently, Isabella is a graduate student in the Historic Preservation Program at Clemson University/ College of Charleston in South Carolina.

We hope to see each and every member of the Class of 2020 in May 2021, when a special on-campus commencement ceremony will take place in their honor.



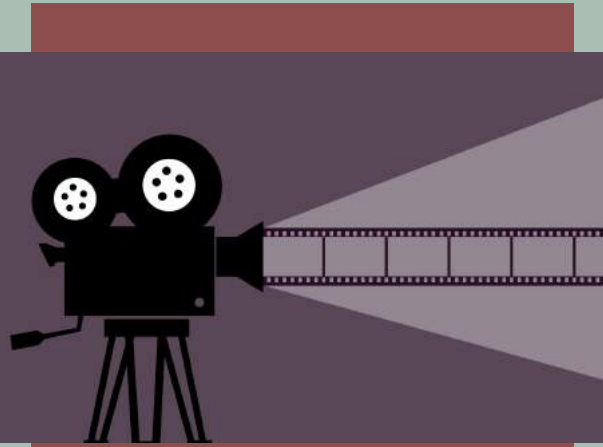
The Historic Preservation Club has kept up with the times and found new ways for bringing together preservation-minded students at UMW. Twice a month, Cody Youngblood, President of the Club, met with club executives and members on Zoom, to socialize and plan the club's traditional events. Most of the latter, like the Interest Meeting in August and the Gingerbread-House Competition, went online. But club members still got their new sweatshirts and planned a visit to a local museum (as a much shortened and, of course, socially distanced version of the fall field trip). The highlight of the semester was the *Graves and Ghouls* Tour of the Fredericksburg City Cemetery, which replaced the 36th *Annual Ghost Walk*, the club's signature event. Students provided tours of the cemetery every 15 minutes and the attendance exceeded their expectations.

More Club events to come in the spring semester!

The Column



The HISP Club published this post on Facebook on the UMW Day of Gratitude (November 17, 2020).



After the school closed in March, students in Prof. Smith's HISP 209 (Planning History and Practice) met weekly for class discussions on Google Hangout. Due to the predicament and social isolation they were all in, students greatly appreciated the chance of interacting with their peers and the professor. In one such hangout session, students shared their experiences at home and the struggle that went along with that. Prof. Smith suggested having movie nights during the summer so that students would have something to look forward, even in a socially distanced setting. This way, she put a positive spin on a challenging situation, giving students the power to make positive changes in their life.

Students and Prof. Smith met every Saturday at 9:00 pm on the GroupMe app. They would have already picked out a movie and would each start the screening from different platforms in the comfort of their home, while engaging in fun conversations on the app. Students loved it so much, that they continued to watch a movie every Saturday night during the Fall 2020 semester. The list of selected movies included *The Money Pit*, *Hamilton*, *Escape from New York*, *Wall-E*, *Addams Family Values*, *Back to the Future*, and *Sweeney Todd*. COVID-19 has forced everyone to get creative with maintaining social interactions and these virtual group gatherings boosted students' morale.

Saturday Night Movies with Professor Smith





This fall, a new exhibition went up in the display case on the first floor in Combs. Titled *Preserving Diversity*, it focuses on the HISP Program's strategic efforts of placing the topic of diversity at the center of its academic curriculum. This exhibition highlights the pedagogical methods and main findings of two projects that students and faculty have recently completed in archaeology and building forensics. In this issue of the newsletter, we are presenting the archaeology project (see below) and will follow up with the building forensics one in the spring newsletter.

Preserving Diversity Exhibition in Combs Hall

Professor McMillan's Sherwood Forest Project

From 2015 to 2017, Professor Lauren McMillan's *Archaeology Field School* conducted work at Sherwood Forest, about 10 miles east from Fredericksburg. This is the site of a former plantation that by 1860 stretched over 800 acres and depended on the work of 50 enslaved African American men, women, and children, who lived in seven quarters on the plantation. The main goal of the project was to identify the location of those



dwellings and to tell the story of those 50 people held in bondage who were largely unnamed in the records; not only from the standpoint of archaeological remains but also documentary and architectural evidence.

Dr. Paino, President of UMW, visiting the site.

**CHECK OUT
THE UMW
ARCHAEOLOGY
WEBSITE TO
KEEP UP WITH
THIS PROJECT
AS WELL AS
OTHER NEWS
AND EVENTS**

UMW HISP Archaeology...

Housed in the Department of and
Center for Historic Preservation at t...
umwarchaeologylab.com



While Professor McMillan expected to identify materials associated with the white owners and the people that they enslaved, students also uncovered items that once belonged to Native Virginians, soldiers in the Union Army, and Jim Crow-era black tenants. Retrieved artifacts ranged from the mundane, such as broken pieces of pottery, to the unexpected, such as a sword scabbard. The artifacts displayed in this Diversity exhibit focused on ordinary objects that illustrate day to day life of individuals, such as projectile points that would have been made and used by members of the Patawomeck people, an antebellum clay marble likely the toy of a child held in slavery, a silver knitting needle sheath likely used by the plantation owner, Jane Fitzhugh, clay pipe fragments and brass buttons from Union soldiers, and post-bellum coins and glass bottles from the 1940s used by African American tenants.

New and unexpected findings came along. For instance, Prof. McMillan and her students linked the clay pipe fragments back to Union soldiers of German backgrounds from New York. A generational change within one family, the Johnsons, was identified from recently emancipated tenants at Sherwood Forest to home ownership and entrepreneurship in the city of Fredericksburg. Each item tells a unique story about the history of Virginia and the Fredericksburg region.

The diversity project is a great example of how people from the past connect to the present through the means of material culture.



This photo shows several steps of the excavation process. From left to right, students are shown lifting trowels of dirt into a bucket; screening dirt from a unit for artifacts; recording information about a test unit; and placing items in labeled bags.

Historic Preservation Alumni in Fredericksburg

Over the last decade, numerous recent graduates have gained employment in historic preservation and are still involved with our program in various capacities. This material acknowledges all such alumni but especially those who live in the larger Fredericksburg area and, due to this proximity, are often invited by our faculty to serve as guest speakers in classes, interact with our students and, quite often, mentor current majors. Two such young professionals have been a continuous presence in our program, generously contributing their time and expertise to supporting students. Both work in local museums and are distinct voices in their field.



Theresa Cramer (Class of 2015) grew up just outside of Philadelphia and gave her first museum tour at the age of nine while attending a history camp. The first museum-studies courses she took at UMW cemented her intent to build a career in museums. She earned her Master's degree in Museum Studies from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis in 2017, and a few months later secured a position as Education and Public Education Coordinator with Fredericksburg Area Museum (FAM). Theresa identifies the museum exhibition on the desegregation of education in King George County, Virginia that she and her classmates developed in 2015 for Ralph Bunche Alumni Association as a pivotal moment in her understanding of the role of community engagement in museums. She also fondly recalls Prof. Smith's lesson on the importance of "how you talk to the community so that they will care," which she still applies in her current work.

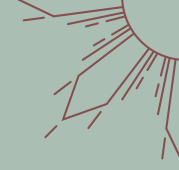
Lindsey Crawford (Class of 2018) started her undergraduate work at UMW with the goal of majoring in Education and becoming a teacher. Little did she know that her first courses in Historic Preservation would determine her to add a second major in Historic Preservation and also a minor in Museum Studies. She completed numerous museum internships, including a couple with Smithsonian museums in DC. However, she credits her work as a Bowley Scholar with James Monroe Museum as the ultimate experience that consolidated her desire to become a museum educator. In 2018 she started the graduate program in Education at UMW and shortly thereafter she applied for and was offered the position of Public Programs Coordinator with James Monroe Museum, which she currently holds.



Time has only strengthened Theresa's and Lindsey's connections with the Historic Preservation Program at UMW. They both supervise HISP majors interning with their museums, collaborate with Prof. Turdean's project-based courses, visit classes and school fairs as guest speakers, and advocate the cause of the program in all circumstances.



Senior Research Project: Delaney Resweber

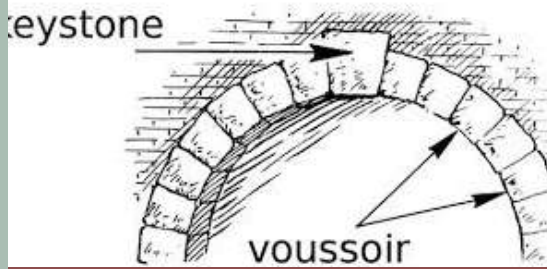


For her senior research project, **Delaney Resweber** (Class of 2021) explores the concepts of *yard* and *space* as they apply to Stratford Hall, an eighteenth-century plantation site in

Westmoreland County, Virginia. More specifically, Delaney focuses on the interpretation of structural remains and artifacts that were excavated from the “Oval Site” at Stratford between 2001 and 2014, in projects coordinated by now-retired HISP faculty, Prof. Doug Sanford.

Delaney uses her GIS skills (she is completing a GIS Certificate as well) to create site maps and show the spatial distribution of artifacts in support of her analysis. Her project addresses several main questions. Is there any intentional separation between the overseer’s house, the kitchen quarter, and the unidentified building, as indicated through artifact distribution patterns? Are there differences in refuse disposal patterns between the kitchen-quarter and the overseer’s house? Do these buildings date to the same time period, as indicated through various artifact dating techniques? Delaney also relies on dating formulas on ceramics and tobacco pipes found on the site.

This interdisciplinary study, conducted under the supervision of Prof. McMillan, contributes to a better understanding of how people on eighteenth-century plantations used physical space. This fall, Delaney has already spent over 500 hours cataloging artifacts and plans to start writing the thesis during the winter break. She hopes to continue this research project as a graduate student in Historical Archaeology.



Introducing the *Voussoirs* Webpage

Over the last several years, the research and teaching interests of HISP faculty brought the subject of diversity in historic preservation in sharp focus. New courses, community partnerships, research projects, and lectures had the goal of giving our majors increased knowledge of and practical training in approaching diversity-related topics.

Along these lines, Prof. Michael Spencer initiated the *Voussoirs* (pronounced voo-zwahz) page on the website of the Department of Historic Preservation. The Oxford Dictionary defines *voussoirs* as wedge-shaped or tapered stones that construct and provide structural integrity to arches and vaults. Noting that these architectural elements can be easily overlooked in favor the more visible keystones, Prof. Spencer proposed the analogy between *voussoirs* and individuals from a diverse array of backgrounds, whose daily efforts keep an organization running but rarely, if ever, get recognition for that.

The purpose of the *Voussoirs* webpage is to highlight such individuals and their contributions to the history of the University of Mary Washington. As of today, the page features the profiles of William Wallace Alsop, a chauffeur and utility worker for the school in the early 1920s, and Ida Thornton, a campus janitor for over three decades. Two other materials on African American cooks and the beginnings of the LGBTQ community at UMW are in the works.

Please stay up to date with the content of the *Voussoirs* webpage and send us your suggestions for similar subjects.

<https://cas.umw.edu/hisp/chp/voussoirs/>

Fall 2020 Grad School Fair

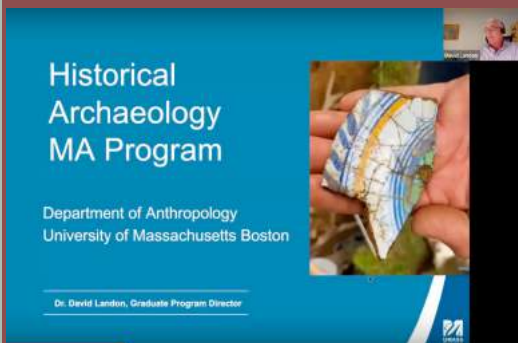
The Center for Historic Preservation organizes two fairs for HISP majors every year. The Grad School Fair takes place in the fall, at the time when seniors prepare their applications for admission in graduate school. The Job Fair is scheduled in the spring semester, when job search becomes a priority for the graduating class. Panels of alumni of the HISP Program are involved in each event. Selected panelists are different every time and they discuss their experiences with applying to and going through grad school (in the fall) or hiring staff (in the spring). The dialogue with students in the audience is a very candid Q & A, where few topics are off limits.

Surprisingly, the impact of this “virtual-everything fall” on the Grad School Fair was more than positive. With physical distance not being a hindrance for attending the fair any longer, representatives of three prestigious graduate programs that draw numerous of our majors agreed to meet virtually with our students. This panel of academics was joined by a second one of recent alumni of our program who hold master’s degrees in various preservation disciplines. This enlarged formula attracted a record number of current students and recent graduates and caused the event to extend to almost double its allocated time.

The panel of academics included David B. Landon, Director of Graduate Studies, Historical Archaeology - University of Massachusetts Boston; Amalia Leifeste, Graduate Program in Historic Preservation - Clemson University/College of Charleston; and Mary Coughlin, Head of Museum Collections Management & Care Online Program - The George Washington University.

Invited alumni were Amanda Verduyck (Class of 2014), Public Programs Manager - National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC; Luan Cao (Class of 2011), Archaeologist and Project Director for Projects in North Carolina and Virginia - Archaeological Consultants of Carolinas, Inc.; and Joshua Mallow (Class of 2013), Urban Planner - Michael Baker International, Richmond, VA.

This experimental format will for sure inform future events of this type.





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