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UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON

CENTER FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER

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PARIS TRIP

This past summer, a group of students had the opportunity to study in Paris, France with **Dr. Smith** as their tour guide for one month. The course **470: Historic Preservation Abroad** focuses on several aspects of historic preservation including architecture, cemeteries, urban planning, and museums. The students would attend classes for the majority of the day visiting historic sites and addressing the cultural design of the vast city of Paris, but they also had free time to visit other sites of interest.

Eric Hummer (Class of 2023) spent most of his time visiting museums and cemeteries. His interest in museums brought him to visit the popular art museums, the Musee d'Orsay and the Louvre. He also enjoyed visiting the grand Galerie de l'Evolution where 7000 preserved animal specimens are on display, and the Musee de l'Armee where weapons and uniforms of the French army are displayed, along with Napoleon's tomb. Eric also enjoyed visiting three major cemeteries around Paris: Montparnasse, Montmartre, and Pierre Lachaise.

"The Paris trip is definitely worth doing, as both free and class time, number of interesting sites, good food, and experienced guide (Smith) offer a near-comprehensive and enjoyable exploration of the city of Paris, that covers both the famous and more discrete sides of the city."



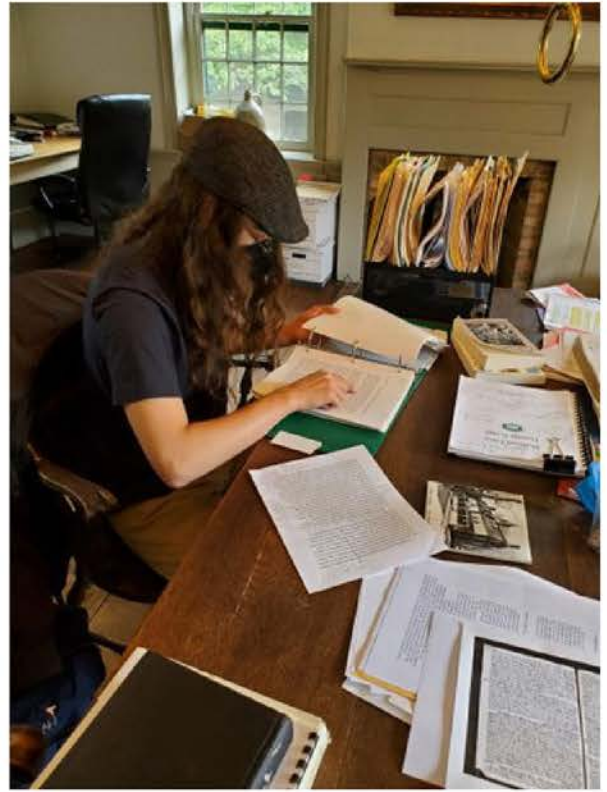
HISP students in front of the Eiffel Tower.



Students enjoy a picnic together.

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS & FIELD SCHOOLS

Learning from experience through internships and field schools is one of the best ways to apply what students are taught in class to real world jobs in the field of historic preservation. Internships can be used for credit or just for experience, and they can be paid or unpaid. No matter what the logistics are, internships can help pinpoint students' interests and start their network of preservationists for their future careers. Many students also had the opportunity to work in the field over the summer at several archaeology field schools. Historic sites like Monticello, Jamestown, and Stratford Hall offer summer internships and field schools that are effective opportunities for students to learn hands on preservation research and field work outside of the classroom.



Aidan Hill deep diving into archival records.

Aidan Hill (Class of 2024) interned at the East Hampton Historical Society in New York where they are trying to get funding for a grant so they can re-contextualize the 1680 Mulford Farm to represent Long Island life around the time of the American Revolution. Looking through the archives, Aidan conducted research on what life was like under British control during the Revolution, how the lives of the enslaved were affected on Long Island, and what kinds of furnishings would be available for a well-to-do farming family in East Hampton.

Lydia Sunderlin (Class of 2023) interned at Belle Grove Plantation, a National Trust for Historic Preservation Site in Middletown, Virginia. She conserved the family cemetery by cleaning and documenting the gravestones with the skills she learned from attending the cemetery conservation workshop offered in the fall by the UMW Center for Historic Preservation. She also gave house tours of the 1797 manor house and assisted in lots of research pertaining to a 1771 stone dwelling, Fort Bowman, that Belle Grove Plantation Inc. owns and is in the process of restoring.

Lydia spent a lot of time reading the Historic Structures Report on Fort Bowman in order to draft two proposals to the Department of Historic Resources for the removal of the portico at Fort Bowman and to properly dispose of a 20th century tenant house on the property that has fallen in disrepair.

Kayliegh Biser (Class of 2023) participated in a field school offered by the University of West Florida (UWF) at the Tristan De Luna Archaeology Site in Pensacola, Florida. She spent three months in Pensacola staying at the University working 8 weeks on the 1559 terrestrial archaeological site. Kayliegh studied Spanish colonial time period artifacts, learned proper excavation technique, proper mapping, basic lab work, and documentation of an active dig site.

Liz Kondzella (Class of 2023) spent 11 weeks working at Ferry Farm assisting with a Phase 3 excavation of an outbuilding site from the Washington family occupation. The site yielded a large number of architectural artifacts: various types of nails, window glass, and brick fragments. Other artifacts uncovered included a few ceramics and the occasional animal bone. Features in the soil were also found helping complete the building outline. A corner stone, however, was the key in determining the extent of the building as it lined up with several post holes found. Based on research, the stone could have been a repair or for structural support.



Lydia pointing out Portland cement used on Fort Bowman's side elevation.



Liz Kondzella posing within the stratigraphy at Ferry Farm.

WORKSHOPS, LECTURES, ETC.

This fall, the Cemetery Conservation Workshop was offered for the third time through the **Center for Historic Preservation**. Students and locals from the Fredericksburg community attended a two-day lecture given by **Robert Mosko**, chief conservator of Mosko Cemetery Monument Services, and then a day in the field practicing what they learned. It was a very hot weekend making it slightly difficult to be outside cleaning gravestones, but the group persevered and enjoyed putting their knowledge to the test in the Fredericksburg City Cemetery. The group documented, evaluated, and recommended treatment for stones, taking lots of pictures of the cleaning process.

Katrina Smith (Class of 2023) really liked learning about all the factors that impact the stones in a cemetery. Her group picked a stone that was illegible and leaning. After digging around the base of the stone, the group found that the stone wasn't leaning, but was unstable due to cast iron pins corroding overtime. The group documented this process with measurements, drawings, and photographs. "Cleaning the stone was my favorite part, it was so rewarding to see how a little bit of water and scrubbing can completely transform a stone while still keeping its historic integrity. After cleaning, we were finally able to read the stone and found out that it was William Beale, first son of Jane Howison Beale who wrote a diary about her experience during the Civil War in Fredericksburg.



Kaitlin Becht removing dirt to reveal the gravestone's base.



The gravestone being rinsed with pressurized water after being scrubbed.

This October, the **Center for Historic Preservation Lecture Series** welcomed the director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's HOPE Crew program, **Milan Jordan** for a Lecture Series. HOPE stands for hands-on preservation experience. Students and community members had the opportunity to hear about Jordan's background in architecture and planning, and how she incorporates these disciplines into helping communities that are in need of preservation work. This program brings together local groups who are trained by an expert tradesperson in a historic buildings trade.

Together they help restore and preserve historic buildings. Getting people involved and trained in the historic building trades helps to decrease the shortage in trades work and preserve historic sites.

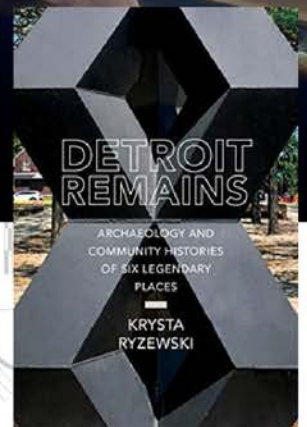


Professor Henry, Wilson LeCount, Kelly Pratt, Milan Jordan, and Lydia Sunderlin.

This year's **Book Prize** winner was **Dr. Krysta Ryzewski** for her book on several preservation case studies in Detroit, Michigan called *Detroit Remains*. Ryzewski discussed the absence of the archaeological record on sites newer than the year 1900, especially in African American neighborhoods such as Paradise Valley and Black Bottom. The impact of urban renewal in the 1930s and the declaration of Detroit's bankruptcy in 2013 caused underrepresentation of the dominant Black community. One of the example case studies focused on an artifact and site of mid-century urban renewal called the Blue Bird Inn. Dr. Ryzewski and fellow archaeologists were the force behind the first archaeological excavation of a site associated with African Americans in Detroit.



Dr. Krysta Ryzewski at the Book Prize lecture hosted by the Center of Historic Preservation.



IN THE FIELD

One of the major components of historic preservation work is going out into the field to assess and document historical, natural, and cultural resources. Students are introduced to fieldwork in the foundational course, **HISP 205: Documentation and Fieldwork**. Students measure, draw, record, and photograph buildings for their various assignments and are encouraged to work together in the process. Because historic preservation is a multidisciplinary field, students are taught that teamwork is a major part of preservation work, and how valuable it is to look at historic resources through multiple lenses.



Professor Henry's students measuring the Innis House at the Fredericksburg National Battlefield Park.



Professor Spencer's section of 205 measuring the windows on the kitchen at the Mary Washington House.



Students photograph the ornamental ceilings in Kenmore for one of their lab field trips.

Students in **Professor Spencer's 305: Historic Building Technologies** course take field trips all around historic Fredericksburg including the Cobblestone Apartments truss bridge, The Rising Sun Tavern, Kenmore, The Fredericksburg City Cemetery, and The Mary Washington House to discuss and learn what construction methods were used at the time, what changes have occurred over time, and how to physically "read" buildings. No matter what discipline students focus on within their preservation career, knowing the terminology and how historic buildings work is essential to all historic sites and preservation projects.



Professor Spencer's class taking notes in the Fredericksburg City Cemetery during a lab.

LABORATORY COURSES & ELECTIVES



Professor Spencer taking the class to the amphitheater on campus to discuss stone deterioration.



Wilson LeCount and **James Marshall** measure the windows on the south elevation at the Mary Washington House.

For **Professor Spencer's** laboratory course **HISP: 461 Building Forensics**, students learn how to use scientific techniques to determine building dates and construction methods. The class takes several trips to the Mary Washington House and other sites similar in historic fabric for comparison to use in their semester project. Looking at historic buildings through an archaeological lens, preservationists can document the layers of a building in order to determine the chronology of a structure and document changes over time. The lab is constructed around writing Part I of a Historic Structures Report, which is a document that provides documentary, graphic, and physical information about a property's history and existing condition.

James Marshall (Class of 2023) has had a fantastic experience working in the field with Professor Spencer and other students. To prepare for writing the multi-part assignment, the class took multiple field trips to observe the material integrity and conditions of the Mary Washington House, the St. James House, and other 18th century homes. During class time, students also participated in hands-on labs including identifying wood types, conducting paint analysis, and a material porosity test. James recommends this lab course to anyone interested in building conservation!

Dr. McMillan's Lab Methods in Archaeology

course informs students on the integral laboratory procedures used in the archaeological research process. Archaeology is much more than just digging up sites, with most of the work being completed in an archaeological lab. Students learn skills pertained to quantitative methods, statistics, and analytical techniques based on archaeological data. Although the course is heavy in Microsoft Excel work, students are also taken into the field at the Fredericksburg City Cemetery to analyze tombstones as material culture and create seriation graphs based on changing culture.



Michael Bernard documents a gravestone in the Fredericksburg City Cemetery as part of a seriation survey.



Archaeology lab aides **Brooke Prevedel** and **Luka Molloy** using drill bits to size their assemblage of pipe stems.

Dr. McMillan's favorite time of the semester is spending a week talking about clay tobacco pipes of the 17th and 18th centuries. Pipe stem dating is a major technique used by archaeologists to determine mean site occupations. Students learned how to use three different dating techniques including Harrington's histogram, Binford Linear Regression Formula, and the Heighon and Deagan Method based on an assemblage of white clay pipe stems from the Nomini Plantation site in the Northern Neck. McMillan discussed the pros and cons of each dating technique, and stressed how integral it is to use other historical documentation and resources to help confirm the calculated mean occupation of sites.



Dr. McMillan assists students in lab class.



Students taking a behind the scenes tour of the MAC Lab artifact collection.

In **Dr. McMillan's Artifact Analysis** elective course, students visited the **Maryland Archaeological Conservation (MAC) Laboratory** in Calvert County, Maryland. Students learned the conservation process used at the laboratory and how objects are acquired into their collections. Students received a private tour of the MAC Lab's massive collection consisting of terrestrial and underwater artifacts. When the students visited the native village in the park where experimental archaeology is utilized, they got to physically experience historical practices and preservation tactics like rebuilding and sustaining native houses and tools. They also practiced using an atlatl, or spear thrower.



Students experimenting how to use atlatls.

HISP CLUB

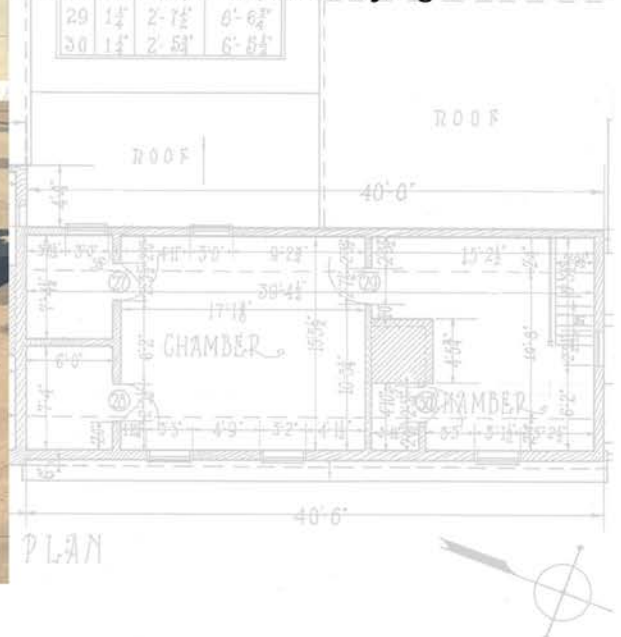
The Historic Preservation Club meets weekly for students within the major and for those just interested in history. This fall, the club has taken a couple trips to historic sites and museums including the three-story Marine Corps Museum in Prince William County, Virginia and Woodlawn Plantation & Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House in Mt. Vernon, Virginia.



The club in front of the **Marine Corps Museum**.



Tessa Hammerstorm and Kayliegh Biser (2023)



The club organized a group trip to the first National Trust for Historic Preservation site, **Woodlawn Plantation** in Mt. Vernon, Virginia. The 1805 plantation home of George Washington's nephew Lawrence Lewis and his wife Nelly Parke Custis, Martha Washington's granddaughter. The students were given a private tour by UMW preservation alumnae **Katie Rowe '12**, who discussed the Patawomeck and Dogue Tribes that were present in the area before the Washington family occupation, and also a brief background on the 90 enslaved people who were present at the site in the early 19th century.



After 1846, the Woodlawn property was bought by Quakers to be used for lumber. They sold off parcels of their land to free Blacks and immigrants creating a multiracial community in pre- Civil War Virginia. The brick manor house is also a great example of the transition from Georgian to Federal style designed by William Thornton, who designed the US Capitol.



Katie Rowe '12 giving students a tour inside of Woodlawn.

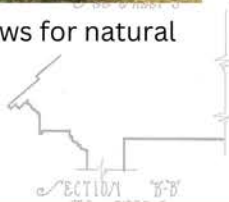
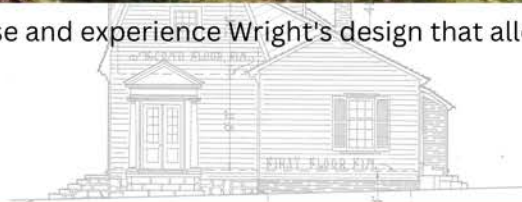
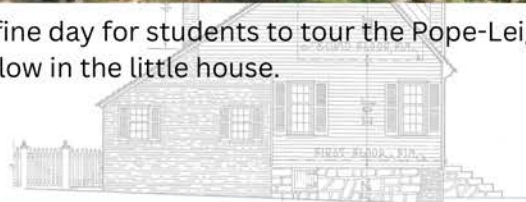
The club also received a private tour of the **Pope-Leighey House** located on the Woodlawn property designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1946. This Usonian home was moved from the expanded path of Route 66 in 1983 and moved again in the 1990s because of instability in the soil. The 1200 square foot home is an example of Wright's phase of designing affordable housing in the 1940s up until his death in 1959. Although small, FLW's spacious design allows comfortable living with plenty of natural light, and demonstrates his favored cantilevered design.



Catherine Haines, Rachel Jank, Katharine Bogen, and Abigail Zurfluh share a laugh in front of the Pope-Leighey House.



It was a fine day for students to tour the Pope-Leighey House and experience Wright's design that allows for natural light to flow in the little house.



The 38th annual Ghost Walk hosted by the Historic Preservation Club was a major success this year with the club fundraising around \$700. The professors donated foundational preservation books from their bookshelves for the club to sell at the James Monroe Museum, along with tickets and shirts for Ghost Walk. Students, professors, and locals came out for this long time tradition in support of the Historic Preservation Department.



The Masonic Cemetery makes for the perfect backdrop.



Students are ready to scare tourists downtown.



Students dressed as ghosts in front of the Mary Washington House.



Students at the Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop.

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