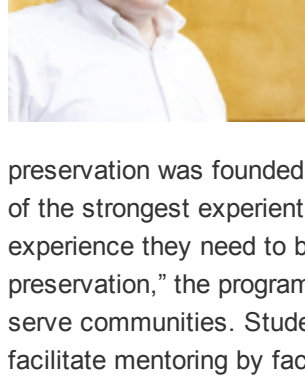




SoA Insider



PROGRAM FEATURE: MASTER OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Jon B. Marcoux, Ph.D.
Director of Historic Preservation Graduate Program

Based in Charleston, South Carolina, the graduate program in historic preservation was founded in 2005. In its relatively brief history, the program has earned a reputation as one of the strongest experiential programs in the nation, producing graduates with both the knowledge and experience they need to be leaders in the preservation field. With the motto "Learning preservation by doing preservation," the program's curriculum is built around hands-on learning through real-world projects that serve communities. Student cohorts are limited to 15 students per year (30 students total) in order to facilitate mentoring by faculty. The program offers a two-year, 60-credit-hour Master of Science degree and a 15-credit-hour graduate certificate. Program courses emphasize the cultural relationships between people, buildings and landscapes, as well as the need to preserve historic fabric and the cultural narratives that give those places meaning. As an applied professional field, students are trained in traditional preservation documentation and analysis techniques (e.g., hand-measured drawing, photography, architectural and object conservation, mortar and paint analysis), as well as technology-forward techniques (e.g., Geographic Information Systems, drone photography/photogrammetry, 3D laser scanning, elemental composition studies, ground penetrating radar). We are excited to announce that beginning this fall, the formerly joint program (with College of Charleston) will be solely affiliated with Clemson University.

The program has a track record of student success in national competitions and career outcomes. For example, competing against other graduate programs and preservation professionals, program students have won, placed or been awarded honorable mentions 18 times in the last decade in the Nation Park Service's Peterson Prize, Holland Prize and Historic American Landscapes Survey Challenge competitions. With the skillsets and experience gained in the program, approximately 90-95 percent of graduates are hired by private employers including federal, state and local governmental agencies, non-profit institutions and private architectural and cultural resource management firms.

The program is anchored by two full-time faculty — Jon Bernard Marcoux, Ph.D., program director, and Professor Amalia Lefeste. Dr. Marcoux is an archaeologist with over 20 years of experience working in the field of historic preservation. He is also a scholar who has published numerous books and articles addressing the archaeology of early colonial period Indigenous and enslaved communities in the southeastern United States. Prior to joining the program in 2019, he directed the Noreen Stonor Drexel Cultural and Historic Preservation program at Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island. Professor Lefeste is an architect and scholar specializing in adaptive use, sustainability and historic preservation pedagogy. She currently serves as the chair of the National Council for Preservation Education. In addition to being superb educators, the program's twelve part-time faculty members are preservation professionals whose reputations are well-known in Charleston and beyond.

The 2021-2022 academic year included a number of successful projects and grant awards. First-year students completed an investigation of a 19th-century domestic dwelling on private property in Green Pond, S.C. The building contained evidence of occupation from the mid-19th through late 20th centuries, and the students did a great job uncovering its history through investigations of construction techniques, hardware, building modifications and decorative finishes. This building is one of a number of intact dwellings that were constructed by and for enslaved people. They served as homes for those families as well as for generations of descendants into the 20th century, and we look forward to utilizing this amazing property as our "classroom" for years to come. As part of our cultural and historic landscape preservation course, first-year students also documented the historic Evergreen Cemetery in James Island, S.C. This cemetery is an important part of the Grimball Farms and Barn Hill communities and was used primarily during the late 19th and 20th centuries. Our students used laser total stations to make a survey map of the grave markers in the cemetery. They also created a phone app that allows them to record information on each stone and take a photo. This map can be used by descendants to locate the graves of loved ones.

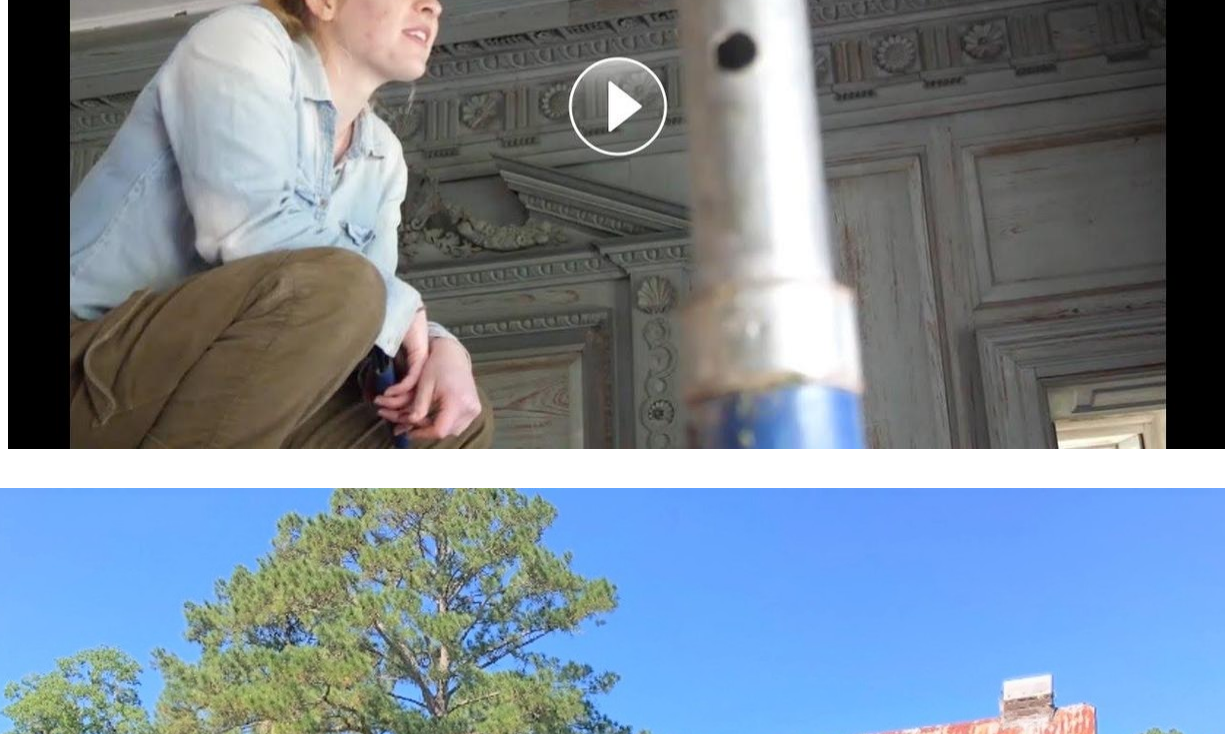
In addition to completing their rigorous thesis projects, second-year students took a deeper dive into investigations during their Historic Structures Report course. Their project building was 81 Cumberland St. — the building behind Charleston's well-known Powder Magazine. The students conducted property research, architectural documentation, systems investigation, paint microscopy and real estate analysis. The finished report provided the owners of the property (The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of South Carolina) with documentation of existing conditions and recommendations for repairs and alternative uses that will be a valuable guide for the preservation of the structure. Thanks to a grant from the National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, our second-year students also got to work on an incredible project with our partners at Drayton Hall (including program alumna Trish Smith) and the expert staff at Warren Lasch Conservation Center (including program alumni Claire Achtyl and Jackie Don). This was a semester-long study of non-invasive techniques for monitoring a historic plaster ceiling at Drayton Hall. The students worked with experts in photogrammetry, 3D laser scanning, x-ray, radar and thermography to see which methods could identify preservation issues and past interventions.

The program was also awarded two large grants for community-based preservation projects. The first project, funded by the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, is focused on the Seashore Farmers Lodge in the historic community of Sol Legare. Built by members of the Seashore Farmers Lodge fraternal organization 1915, the lodge building served local community members as a focal place for religious services, educational programs, civic deliberations and celebrations. As a museum, the building now houses a large collection of material culture associated with the history of the lodge and the Sol Legare community. Along with our partners at the Lodge and at Warren Lasch Conservation Center, we will provide collections management training for community members; conduct conservation assessment and treatment for objects in the Seashore Farmers Lodge collection; and develop manuals for ongoing care and management.

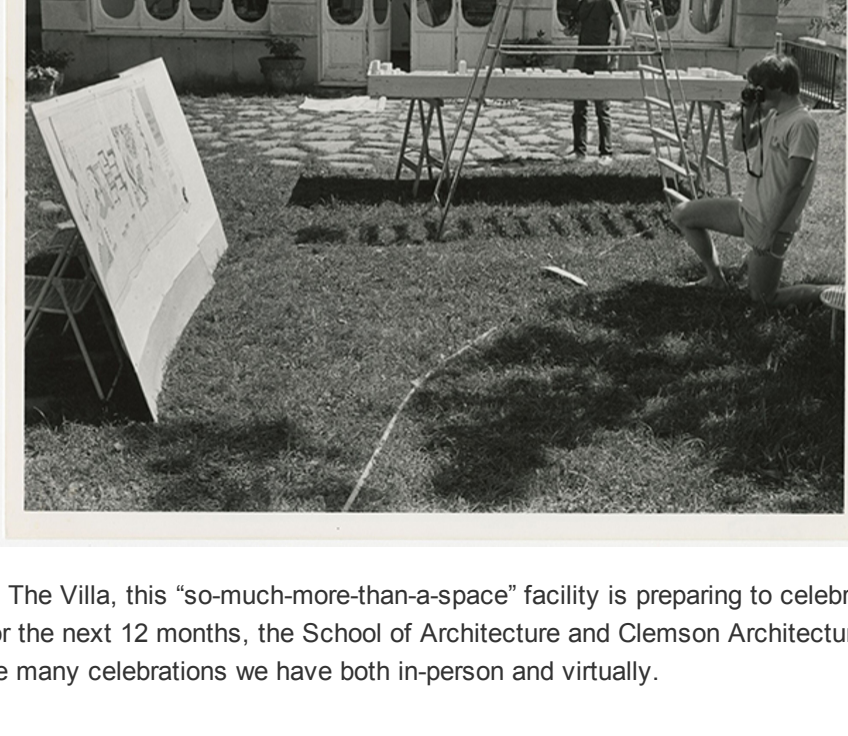
We also received a grant from the Vernacular Architecture Forum to support a community-based historic preservation field school during the summers of 2023 and 2024. Our field school will focus on researching and documenting late 19th and early 20th-century public buildings and their role within the African-American community on John's Island, S.C. During the course of these three-week programs, historic preservation faculty from Clemson University, archivists from the Avery Research Center for African American History & Culture, history faculty from Claflin University, scholars from the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, members of the Progressive Club and local community educators will teach field school participants about life in this community during the Jim Crow and Civil Rights periods. Through hands-on learning, participants will also learn how to document the physical fabric and cultural narratives associated with the historic buildings and landscapes on this Lowcountry sea island. The field school will seek participants with cultural/historical connections to the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor and adult residents of Johns Island and adjacent communities. Thanks to this generous funding, the field school will feature zero-cost tuition and offer stipends to participants. Area residents not available for the full program will be invited and compensated for participating in one-day workshops on topics including building documentation, heritage preservation advocacy and preservation/heritage careers.

We also grieved the loss of one of our students, Kelly B. Bulak, who passed away in November. With her passing, a brilliant light has gone out, and our field has indeed lost a most passionate and promising advocate for the historic built environment. Her unwavering optimism, love of learning and determination to remain in our program during her treatment serves to highlight how special she was — a true inspiration to everyone in our program.

Finally, we are all very excited to announce that we will be hosting our inaugural MSHP Alumni Weekend on April 21-22, 2023! It is shaping up to be a wonderful experience featuring a reception and discussion of the past, present and future state of the field with directors: Ashley (Robinson) Wilson, Carter Hudgins and Jon Marcoux, tours of past MSHP project site locations, and a concluding dinner. With the realization that our program has created a large and growing network of amazing preservation professionals, we hope that this event will provide a platform for strengthening our relationships and that it will become one of the highlights of the Spring in Charleston!



News



Join the celebration of Clemson's Fluid Campus® in Genoa, Italy

The art of architecture is a process. One that takes time, focus and, ideally, a great space to work from concept to sketch and beyond. Since 1973, Clemson University's School of Architecture has provided its students with such a space in the Charles E. Daniel Center for Building Research and Urban Studies in Genoa, Italy. Known affectionately

as The Villa, this "so-much-more-than-a-space" facility is preparing to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2023. For the next 12 months, the School of Architecture and Clemson Architectural Foundation hope you will join the many celebrations we have both in-person and virtually.

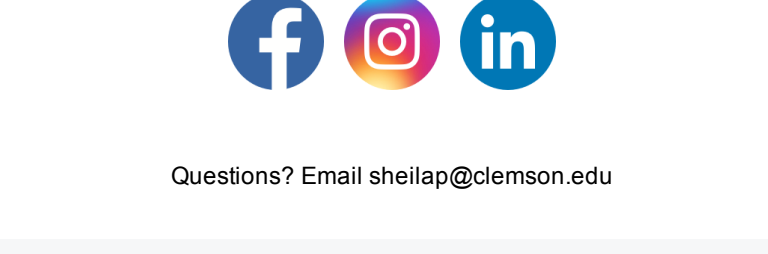
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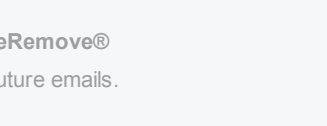
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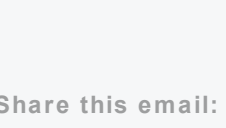


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