Aging within the Community and Aging in Place
SPHL 498G - Lynn Cook
Students conduct a needs assessment of a Howard County neighborhood with a large aging population to determine what services and amenities would help residents age in place and address potential barriers to aging in place such as crime, transportation, affordability, and housing quality.

Neighborhood Stabilization Index
URSP 601 - Dr. Casey Dawkins, GVPT 368K - Dr. Jim Gimpel
Students apply statistical and GIS analysis to data so as to construct a Neighborhood Stabilization Index which can identify neighborhoods “at risk” for future declines in property values and / or neighborhood stability.

Bridging the Benefits Cliff
ECON 454 - Ken Coriale
Students analyze modifications to existing policies to enable the County to better serve disadvantaged populations. These would help bridge the benefits gap where, for example, support from Food Stamps or Housing Assistance ends due to earnings increases, while the need persists.

Regional Impact on Howard County’s Homeless Plan
GVPT 388 - Dr. Morris Irwin, Dr. Stella Rouse
This course would provide best practice recommendations for the prevention of future homelessness and the reduction of existing homelessness, based primarily on an assessment of existing practices in comparable and / or adjacent locales as identified by the County.

Development and Promotion of an App for Historic Sites
INF 737 - Dr. Kathy Weaver, BMGT 130 - Dr. Mary Beth Furst
UMDCP students create an app to include a walking tour of Ellicott City and a driving tour through the rest of the County. Deliverables include video production, maps, brochures and historic interpretive signage. Howard Community College students work closely with the Department of Recreation & Parks to develop a marketing plan for the new app.

Revitalization Focus: Older Neighborhoods
SWOA 705 - Dr. Lane Victorson
Groups of students assess four older neighborhoods (two in Columbia, two elsewhere in the county) accounting for metrics that signal overall neighborhood decline. Recommendations for interventions include mobilizing county resources and adopting best practices elsewhere.

Columbia Stories: Oral History Project
ANTH 4630/6980 - Dr. Jen Shaffer, Dr. Tania Icaza, (HCC)
Environmental sustainability, community values and change in Columbia over the past half century is assessed through an anthropological lens. Oral history interviews and texts are analyzed for sustainability and change themes. UMDCP students partner with Howard Community College and UMBC to produce a booklet and recordings.

Civic Engagement
GVPT 368K - Dr. Jim Gimpel, INFM 600 - Dr. Andrea Wiggins, SWOA TBD - Dr. Lane Victorson
These courses address civic engagement from various perspectives and at different levels. Projects include: using social media effectively; online public engagement methods; how to generate more civic engagement in Columbia by millennials, young families and Environmental learners.

Evidence Based Practices for Corrections
GVPT 368K - Dr. Jim Gimpel
Reducing the risk of recidivism requires an efficient way to gather information on what is working so as to adjust operations for the best outcomes. This deliverable is a model on how to collect and analyze data that helps the Department of Corrections implement best practices.

Get Benched: Identifying Needs and Placing Benches
GVPT 368K - Dr. Jim Gimpel
Best practices for the placement of park benches are applied to the current distribution of benches along county trails and bike paths using GIS and other techniques.

PALS is part of the National Center for Smart Growth and is funded by a modest charge per course from the participating jurisdiction and a grant from the UMD’s Office of the Provost. PALS covers all course-related travel expenses and provides additional incentives for participating faculty.

PALS is harnessing the knowledge and experience of University of Maryland faculty along with the energy and ingenuity of the University’s students to advance environmental, economic and social sustainability in Maryland’s communities. For the 2015-2016 academic year, UMD has joined forces with Howard County, MD and Columbia Association to build on their sustainability efforts. This involves 34 courses, 500 students, and 10 schools across College Park and two courses with Howard Community College.

For more information please contact
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NCSG Executive Director, Gerrit Knaap: gknaap@umd.com
Visit the PALS website @ www.smartgrowth.umd.edu/pals
Economic Development

The Farming Industry: Profitable Models
SmithX MBA - Neta Moye  AREC 489N - Phil Gottwals
As farming transitions into new hands and new products, this course will develop models for profitable farming for small farms and for successful food hubs in collaboration with the Extension Service and Soil Conservation Service.

Revitalizing the Route 1 Corridor
URSP 705 - Dr. Jim Cohen
This is a priority redevelopment corridor for Howard County. Issues to address include the balance of industrial, housing and commercial land use as well as workforce availability and training, and highway vs transit options, including several Transit Oriented Developments.

Fostering Economic Vibrancy in Historic Ellicott City
Summer Workshop - Uri Avin
ARCH 470 - Matt Bell, Jana VanderGoot
Can this historic gem increase its critical mass and become a regional tourist magnet? A review of the market aspects of this question is followed by a design studio that looks at the overall context and the potential of specific properties for redevelopment, including flood mitigation.

Innovation Networks: Potential and Locations
URSP 708 - Dr. Scott Dempwolf
New network-based methods of modeling and measuring innovation activities and their impacts are used in combination with existing methods of analysis to yield new insights and suggest new economic development strategies for the selected target areas.

Oakland Mills Village Redevelopment
RDEV 688I - Margaret McFarland  ARCH 407 - Jana VanderGoot
Students in ARCH 407 develop a series of revitalization site plans with accompanying rendered presentation images. Students in RDEV 688I create development proposals addressing the market analysis, entitlement process, design, construction and financing for the project.

Regional Patapsco Greenway
INFIM 737 - Dr. Kathy Weaver
Students explore the economic impact of developing a high quality, shared use path connecting Ellicott City to Elkridge, including extending connections to the City of Baltimore, Catonsville and the BWI. The project includes the impact on tourism in Ellicott City and Oella.

Video Storytelling and Feature Writing
JOUR 368v/688v - Bethany Swain  JOUR 371 - Marlene Cimons
Journalism students create in-depth video stories and feature articles around Howard County and Columbia which highlight sustainability issues and efforts through character-driven pieces, representing a variety of voices.

Environment

Weather Related Hazard Mitigation and Feasibility
BSCI 215 - Dr. Keryn Gedan  PUAF------Dr. Anand Patwardhan
These projects address the risk of flooding to Howard County and how it will change with climate change and sea level rise. They also examine the cost/benefit, funding and implementation aspects of alternative approaches. Flooding in Ellicott City is one of several focus areas for students interacting with the fall studio in Architecture (ARCH 470) in Ellicott City.

Lake Kittamaqundi Masterplan
LARC 471 - Dr. Vikki Chanse
Students develop designs for Columbia’s Lakefront and land along the 27-acre, man-made lake’s environmentally-sensitive edge to enhance this central gathering place and promote views and connections to the lakefront.

Private Sector Energy Conservation
CPSP 249E - Nicole Mogul, Mira Azarm, Sean Williamson
Students recommend how to best encourage commercial customers to embrace energy conservation as part of their normal practices. Students draw on successful public sector practices and profile best practices in private sector energy conservation to create and test prototypes for adoption.

Green Infrastructure Network and Enhancement
LARC 452 - Dr. David Myers
Invasive species cause ecological damage by outcompeting native species, reducing biological diversity, and changing ecosystem functions. Students will document invasive species in selected hubs of the Howard County green Infrastructure Network and support the county’s effort to understand forest quality.

Rails to Trails Conversion
LARC 341 - Dr. Chris Ellis
This project evaluates the feasibility of a shared-use pathway on the unused CSX right-of-way on a corridor from Oakland Mills Road to Route 1 including the development of materials for the trail, preliminary engineering, signage concepts, visualization material and connections to potential redevelopment areas, existing and potential transit.

Management of Urban Forest Edges in Columbia
PLSC 480 - Dr. Lea Johnson
Students apply their research on the ecological values of urban forest patches to the specific challenges facing such patches in Columbia’s extensive open space system. They cull science-based best management practices to create fact sheets and reports on these topics.

South Fulton Park Master Plan
LARC 642 - Dr. Chris Ellis
Students develop a master plan for an 84-acre community park with varied topography and ecological features. Tasks include natural/environmental resource inventory, site analysis, circulation/access, parking, natural tails/pathways, active/passive recreational facilities and equestrian usage.