Real Estate in India: Challenges & Opportunities
Fall 2016 Lecture

Last Wednesday, the Colvin Institute had the pleasure of hosting M.V. Rajeev Gowda, member of the Indian Parliament, for the annual fall lecture. Rajeev was graciously welcomed by the School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation including the new Dean, Sonia Hirt. Anand Anandalingam, former Dean of the Robert H. Smith School of Business introduced the speaker, as a former mentor when they were both at the Wharton School of Business at Penn. MRED students, faculty, and staff as well as friends of the Colvin Institute filled the Auditorium.

Dr. Gowda shared with the audience some of the challenges facing India's economy and how that impacts the real estate industry. India is rapidly growing with GDP per capita doubling every 11 years. India is also quickly urbanizing, with 41% of the population expected to be living in cities by 2030. Real Estate composes over 8% of the Indian GDP and makes up the second largest employment sector, primarily because of the labor intensive nature of construction in India.

Dr. Gowda closed his lecture with a discussion of the legislative efforts he is involved with in the Indian Parliament, which is working to enact changes that will make real estate development and investment more predictable and attractive to outside capital. By the end of the evening, a large share of the audience was ready to buy their tickets and start looking for investment and development opportunities.

NAIOP Conference

Colvin Institute staff Carrie Chard and Tanya Bansal along with MRED students Dericka Joyner and Emilie Rottman attended the National NAIOP Conference, CRE.CON ’16, in Scottsdale, AZ from September 26 - 28. NAIOP’s fall conference is a dynamic event where people meet new potential business partners, do deals, and attend educational sessions led by industry leaders.

A full day of sessions kicked off Tuesday, September 27, with a breakfast keynote general session entitled "Commercial Real Estate Redefined: How Exponential Change will Disrupt the Industry". Other sessions included "Key Drivers and Players in Foreign Capital Investments", "The Best Opportunities in Second- and Third-tier Markets", "Bricks and Clicks: The E-commerce Evolution's Impact on CRE and Secondary Tech Markets" and a Luncheon where Newt Gingrich presented his views on how a New President will impact the country.

The MRED students attended a special student session where they heard from leading individuals in the Commercial Real Estate industry about their careers, followed by a special reception for Developing Leaders.

During the conference, Emilie Rottman, a graduate student in the Master of Real Estate Development program and a student member of NAIOP DC|MD, was recognized as one of five recipients of the inaugural 2016 Diversity Commercial Real Estate (CRE) Scholarship.
NAIOP interview with 2016 Diversity CRE Scholarship Award Winner Emilie Rottman

MRED Students Emilie Rottman (left) and Dericka Joyner (right) with Colvin Institute Assistant Director Carrie Chard (center)
The time has come for MRED students to begin planning their classes for Winter (January) and Spring 2017. Advising sessions for Real Estate Graduate students will be held Monday, October 31 to Thursday, November 3 from 6:00-7:00 pm. Attending any one of the advising sessions will get you priority access to classes for the spring semester. Please RSVP to Katie Sipos at ksipos@umd.edu with your selected day to reserve your spot. Pizza and soda will be provided! Students attending one of the group sessions will get priority in individual advising and course registration.