CONGRATULATIONS to James Whitley (BLA '02), Vice President and COO of Landmark Properties, Inc. for his inclusion on the UGA Alumni Association 40 Under 40 list for 2015! We asked James to give a few thoughts on his time here at CED and in the BLA.

Who was your favorite professor in the BLA program and why?

Scott Weinberg because he was intense but fair. He supervised my terminal project, and while we didn’t always see eye to eye, I got the sense that he respected toughness and a well thought out argument. He also happened to be extremely knowledgeable and had the ability to balance creativity and practicality.

What was your favorite part of the BLA program and why?

I appreciated the overall focus on finding creative solutions to real world challenges. We were encouraged to think outside of the box, and that skill has served me well throughout my career.

What advice would you give to students in the BLA program today?

Don’t be afraid of a challenge or to accept a responsibility. It’s that moment of courage that can change your life. When you pay attention there can be a lesson in every experience, and that lesson is a victory.