Professor Emeritus Dorn C McGrath, Jr. led the Department of Geography from 1996 to 2003. In retirement he continues to be an active contributor to the life of the Department and the University. Professor McGrath taught for 35 years at GWU, first in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and later in the Department of Geography. He also founded the Center for Urban and Environmental Research (CUER), an active research center housed in the Department of Geography. Throughout his tenure at the university he worked closely with area neighborhoods, the District of Columbia government, as well as state and federal agencies, addressing planning concerns in the city that he loved. He trained many students about the art and craft of urban planning, several of whom are planning professionals today.

The Dorn C. McGrath, Jr. Lecture Fund supports an annual lecture from a prominent urban planner or geographer. The intent of this lecture fund is to honor the contributions of Professor Dorn C. McGrath, Jr. and to insure high-level discussions about planning innovations and best practices in the United States and abroad. Invited speakers will give a public lecture as well as meet with undergraduate and graduate students with urban interests. In April 2015 Dr. Amy Glasmeier of M.I.T. gave the inaugural lecture. This year Mr. Joel Kotkin, Presidential Fellow in Urban Futures at Chapman University will present a talk on April 15th at 5:30 p.m. titled "A Different Vision for Cities." Alumni and friends have contributed generously to this lecture fund. If you would like to contribute to the Dorn C. McGrath, Jr. Lecture Fund, please visit go.gwu.edu/dornmcgrathfund. If mailing a check, please make it out to The George Washington University, with "Department of Geography, McGrath Fund" in the memo line. If giving online, please make sure you check the box that says "Honor or Memorial Gifts" All monies are tax deductible and will go into the Department of Geography’s Endowment earmarked for the Dorn C. McGrath, Jr. Lecture.

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