

Auburn University at Montgomery
ICMA Student Chapter
2017 Annual Report

The Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM) International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Student Chapter officially began in January 2017. Before this time, members of the AUM Master's Degree Program in Public Administration (MPA) established the Public Administration Student Association. That group successfully ran for two semesters.

2017 Chapter Officials

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Andrew Cortell, Department Head and Professor of Political Science
Advisor in the Profession: Mr. Donnie Mims, Administrator, Montgomery County and President,
Alabama City-County Management Association

President: Blessing Bolei, MPA Student

Vice President: Kanesia Shine, MPA Student

Secretary: Shenicka Hohenkirk, MPA Student

Alumni/Communication Chair: Chasity Sanders, MPA Student

Membership

The AUM ICMA Student Chapter had 12 members at the end of its first semester in existence.

Goals

Foster the mission and vision of ICMA;

Create an avenue for networking among alumni and current students;

Learn from professionals about real-life experiences;

Connect/collaborate with the local community; and

Give back to the community through service.

Summary of Activities

The AUM ICMA Student Chapter seeks to ensure that all aspects of AUM's MPA Program – including the elective areas of state and local government, non-profit organization, and health care administration – are reflected in the programs organized by the chapter. The chapter leadership ensures that at least one event is carried out every month. The events have been attended by differing groups depending on the topic; the audience includes the chapter members, other MPA students, other graduate students, and faculty.

Spring 2017 Events

January 2017

Dr. Don Williamson was the first speaker. He is the President and CEO of the Alabama Hospital Association and former State Health Officer for the State of Alabama. His many accomplishments include making Alabama the first state to implement the Children's Health Insurance Program in the late 1990s, and replacing about 50 county health department facilities. Dr. Williams spoke to the AUM ICMA Student Chapter about careers in health care administration.

February 2017

Donnie Mims, Administrator, Montgomery County, President, Alabama City-County Management Association, an AUM MPA graduate, and the Chapter's Advisor in the Profession, spoke at the second event organized by the ICMA Student Chapter. He discussed the elements and importance of state budgeting.

March 2017

Zillah Fluker, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Alabama State University, was the guest at the third event. She discussed the role of social media in branding and professional development, emphasizing the benefits as well as limits of employing technological tools for professional goals.

April 2017

Members of the AUM ICMA Student Chapter volunteered at Cedar Crest Rehabilitation Center as part of its health programs. The group interacted with the residents and provided assistance where needed.

Additional Information

We have had success in achieving some of the goals set for the chapter. Although we are still considered a new chapter, we have had great interaction with the local community; professionals from various spheres of public administration have been speakers at our events. These forums have helped to increase interest among students in city and county management. One student landed an internship with a near-by city this past spring and others have participated in Alabama City-County Management Association events, even receiving scholarships from that organization.

Future Goals

The Chapter currently focuses on students in the MPA Program; in moving forward, we hope to expand the membership to include undergraduate and doctoral students whose interests align with the goals and objectives of the chapter. We also wish to create a stronger campus presence that can help us attract other students interested in public policy. In the future, we want to offer more presentations with a focus on the non-profit sector.



AUM ICMA Chapter pose for Selfie with Speaker



Fluker Discussing Social Media and Professionalism



Volunteer at Cedar Crest Rehabilitation Center