

**AUBURN UNIVERSITY AT MONTGOMERY**  
**ICMA Student Chapter**  
**2018 Annual Report**

**2017-2018 Chapter Officials:**

**President:** Shenicka Hohenkirk

**Vice President:** Robert Summers

**Secretary:** Shelecia Robinson

**Faculty Advisor:** Dr. Andrew Cortell, Department Head and Professor of Political Science

**Membership:**

The Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM) ICMA Student Chapter had 20 members.

**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 public administration covered in AUM's Master's Degree Program in Public Administration (MPA) – including state and local government, non-profit organization, and health care administration – are reflected in the programs organized by the chapter. The leadership seeks to organize at least two events per semester. The events have been attended by differing groups depending on the topic; the audience includes the members, other MPA students, other graduate students, faculty and alumni.

**Fall Semester 2017**

**September 2017**

Sam Gaston, the City Manager of Mountain Brook, Alabama and an AUM MPA program alum, came to speak about careers in city management and the importance of MPA students interning and having mentors in the public administration field.

**December 2017**

MPA students from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Auburn University, and AUM collaborated to hold a joint event. About twenty-five students from the three programs took a tour of Montgomery City Hall, where we engaged in presentations from the Mayor of Montgomery (Todd Strange) and other public officials. The event ended with a luncheon at Jason's Deli, which was sponsored by UAB's ICMA Student Chapter.

**Spring Semester**

**February 2018**

Anita Archie, Deputy Director of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, spoke to our ICMA student chapter about government ethics in the workplace and why voting matters. Archie serves on several community boards and commissions, including the

Alabama Women's Commission, the Alabama Child Abuse and Neglect Board and the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Committee.

### **March 2018**

Jeff Downes, the City Manager of Vestavia Hills, Alabama and an AUM MPA program alum, came to speak to the ICMA student chapter. Mr. Downes held a number of positions in the City of Montgomery before moving to Vestavia Hills. He spoke about the integrity of city officials and his experience as a professional city manager in two cities with different governance structures. Not only did MPA students come to this presentation, but there also was great support from the faculty.

### **March 2018**

Members of the AUM ICMA Student Chapter volunteered for a second year at the Cedar Crest Rehabilitation Center as part of its health programs. The group interacted with the residents, painted female residents' nails and provided help in other areas.

### **April 2018**

AUM ICMA Student Chapter President Shenicka Hohenkirk received a scholarship to attend the 2018 ICMA Southeastern Regional Conference in Mountain Brook, Alabama from the ICMA organization. She attended management workshops, team-building exercises and briefly spoke about the importance of public speaking. This conference gave her the opportunity to meet and connect with city officials and various MPA students from up and down the east coast.

### **FUTURE GOALS**

The Chapter currently focuses on students in the MPA Program and, going forward, we hope to open the membership to undergraduate and doctoral students whose interests align with the goals and objectives of the chapter. We also want to create a stronger campus presence that can help us to attract other students interested in public policy. In the future, we want to offer more presentations with a focus on the non-profit sector and introduce students to more conferences to connect with public administrators, have possible internships, and learn more about the public administration field.

### **PHOTOS**

Below are some photos from the year's events.

*Joint ICMA Student Chapter City Hall Tour and Collaboration*



*Alabama City-County Management Association Winter Conference*

