

June 5, 2015



ICMA Student Chapter Report

Carnegie Mellon's ICMA Student Chapter at the Heinz College had a fun and eventful inaugural year. We were able to recruit 16 members (including leadership) by the end of the year and held three events.

Our first event was *Young Leaders in Local Government*. The speakers at this event were two local borough managers, Julie Bastianini of Edgewood Borough and Ian McMeans of the Borough of Homestead. Ian is also a Heinz alum. The event included discussions on a day in the life of a municipal manager, the challenges managers face, and the rewards of working in local government. The event was attended by 15 students (members and non-members) and included plenty of questions from an inquisitive audience. It was a well-received event as judged by the feedback from both students and speakers.

In November, we co-hosted an event with the Politics & Policy Club and the Smart Growth Club entitled, *The Fight Against Blight: Land Banking in Pittsburgh*. Speakers included the Director of Community & Economic Development of the Heinz Endowment, Rob Stephany, the Executive Director of the Steel Valley Council of Governments, An Lewis (Heinz graduate), and the Deputy Director of the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group, Bethany Davidson (Heinz graduate). The speakers presented information on land banking in Pittsburgh and how organizations across the county are working together on solutions to combat the problem of vacant and abandoned properties. This event was also well attended with over 30 students present.



The Fight Against Blight: Land Banking in Pittsburgh Event at Heinz College

Additionally, the programs at Heinz College require students to complete an internship between their first and second years. As such, we hosted the *Local Government Internship Panel* where second-year students answered questions about their internships from the previous summer and shared insights on what to expect when working in a local government office.

Looking forward to the 2015/16 academic year, since over half of our members graduated in May, we plan on recruiting more members through outreach to current, new, and prospective students. We have already begun outreach to local government professionals in the region to plan for events in the upcoming year. Additionally, we hope a few of our members will be attending the ICMA Conference this fall in Seattle.

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