

ICMA Student Chapter Report

2015-2016

The Cornell Student Chapter of the International City/ County Management Association (cICMA) has gone through five years. Members of cICMA come from Cornell's masters programs in the City and Regional Planning Department (CRP) and its Institute of Public Affairs (CIPA). Chapter officers come from both CRP and CIPA, and the chapter leverages that wider reach in collaborative relationships with the Organization of Cornell Planners (OCP), the Cornell Public Affairs Society (CPAS), and other student organizations. The chapter advisor is Professor Mildred Warner and the chapter mentor is County Administrator Joe Mareane.

Fall Semester

Chapter officers were: co-chairs, Hien Dinh (CRP) and Sarah Cantatore (CIPA); outreach chair, Luoxiaohan (Helen) Li (CIPA); and treasurer, Zhonghao (Gavin) Guo (CRP). The officers met biweekly to plan chapter outreach and programming.

On October 7, the Chapter had an Interdepartmental Mixer for students from the CRP and CIPA as well as the whole Cornell graduate community, in coordination with OCP, CPAS. The Mixer was at Big Red Barn and more than 70 students attended the Mixer, enjoying refreshments and food. Members came to relax, have fun and make friendly conversations about our student organizations, academic programs, topics regarding policy and planning, or about graduate life in general. Participants also learned about cICMA and ICMA, and got weblinks and the password for student membership in the national organization.

On November 17, approximately 20 students attended the chapter's luncheon with student researchers, at which members from CRP made research presentations on user fees, NYS austerity, etc. The chapter provided pizza and refreshments, and speakers and board members lingered after the event to chat with students informally.

On November 18, the chapter held a panel discussion on Korea Trip: Comparative Public Administration. Guest speakers from CIPA and CRP shared their experiences, insights, and lessons learned from their trip to Seoul and work with the Metropolitan Government. More than 20 students attended this meeting, at which interested students learned about ICMA in general and cICMA in particular. Several students decided to join the chapter officers in attending ICMA's annual conference.

Spring Semester

Chapter officers were: co-chairs, Hannah Bahnmler (CRP) and Zhehao Jin (CIPA); outreach chair, Apoorva kumar (CRP); and treasurer, Jiaying Zhou (CIPA). The officers met biweekly to plan chapter outreach and programming.

On March 16, the chapter held their biannual Interdepartmental Mixer for students from the CRP and CIPA as well as the whole Cornell graduate community, in coordination with OCP, CPAS. The Mixer was at Big Red Barn and about 20 students showed up to enjoy pizza, refreshments, and to talk across departments about their interests and research.

On March 18th, chapter co-president, Hannah Bahnmler, advertised ICMA membership to incoming City and Regional Planning students at the department's Open House organization-hosted dinner. She outlined the events and opportunities that ICMA offers for incoming students and present opportunities for getting involved and becoming members.

On April 14th, the chapter hosted a lecture and discussion with Ms. Paula Younger, the Deputy County Administrator for Tompkins County. Ms. Younger's talk, titled "From Federal Government Contracting to County Government Administration: Skills for Success," discussed her tips for working with and in local governments at a variety of levels. This event was attended by 12 students who were able to intimately engage the speaker and learn about her career path.

On May 18th, the chapter held a study session at the Big Red Barn for students to come and enjoy snacks and refreshments while studying for finals in a collaborative setting.

Planned Events for 2016-2017

Now that our organization has established itself and built a base of interested students in CIPA and CRP programs, we plan to further connect with local governments, expand our membership, and strengthen the connection between our members with the wealth of resources within ICMA, through the events below.

In the Fall of 2016, cICMA will seek to shift its professional adviser to Paula Younger as our current adviser has not been responsive in the last year. We will ask Ms. Younger if she would be willing to act as the adviser for the organization and provide support for our events and advice for the board.

In the upcoming year, cICMA plans to continue to host the bi-annual Interdepartmental Mixer to help promote cross department interaction between CIPA and CRP students. In the upcoming year, we may expand this event to other departments including Real Estate, Engineering, and/or the Business School.

Furthermore, we would like to continue to promote interest in local government by hosting several types of events with speakers from a variety of fields and professions. First, we would like to continue our events which highlight regional local governments officials by sharing both their work and career paths in order to provide insight into the possibilities of professions in local government management and administration for students. Secondly, we hope to arrange an academic panel of researchers at Cornell whose work focuses on conducting local government through a variety of perspectives in order to provide a more academic lens to the topic of local government managements. This event will ideally include researchers and academics who work outside the US to draw more on the international reach of ICMA.