

Regent University ICMA Student Chapter

The Regent University student chapter of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) reinforces the MPA program and the larger university's emphasis on servant leadership to promote excellence of character and competency, the essential elements for success in today's complex governmental environment. The goals of the chapter are to introduce and integrate students into local government and foster a strong commitment to servant leadership.

The Regent student chapter greatly benefits from its association with two past presidents of ICMA, Dr. Edwin Daley and Mr. Sam Gaston, both serving with distinction as Practitioner's in Residence in the MPA program. This spring, we had a change in student leadership. Former President, Rachael Monnin, who ably led the chapter and provided a strong foundation for future growth during the past two academic years was passed the baton to Tanny Simmons.

The chapter's main event was a lecture on 'Diversity in Administration' in March 2017. The guest speaker was Dr. Ron Carlee, Director of the Center for Regional Excellence, Old Dominion University, Strome College of Business. His career has been in local government, including City Manager, Charlotte, North Carolina; County Manager, Arlington, Virginia; Chief Operating Officer, ICMA; Director of Health and Human Services, Arlington, Virginia; and Assistant to the Mayor, Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. Carlee's spoke broadly on "Leading Local Government in Challenging Times," looking specifically at ways to improve racial relations, overcome racial discrimination, and engender equitable service delivery to diverse populations in the country. The topic is critical because racial diversity is salient to efforts toward sustainability at the local government level. This event was video recorded and made available to our distant and online students.

In the coming academic year (2017-2018), the chapter looks forward to building up membership and additional opportunities to learn from local practitioners. In particular, we have plans to host Dr. Ron Carlee for a part two on "Diversity in Administration." Also, we look forward to collaborating with chapters in the Hampton Roads to organize a regional event. There is also an opportunity to organize a joint program with Regent's Pi Alpha Alpha student honor society.