

The **UAB ICMA** student chapter had an exciting 2014-15 school year. We held two events, one in both the fall and in the spring semesters. Our organization had several core members graduate in December so our efforts shifted largely to recruitment during the spring term. Recruitment activities and rebuilding a base will carry into Fall 2015 and serve as our foremost goal.

Fall Semester

The fall semester began with a panel discussion featuring two Birmingham leaders, Sam Gaston and Ellen Grady. Gaston is a former ICMA president and current city manager of Mountain Brook, while Grady is the Senior Vice President of Resource Development of United Way of Central Alabama. Our panel addressed government and non-profit partnerships and how the two coordinate to address different community needs. This was an excellent discussion and allowed students to learn about opportunities in government positions as well as nonprofits.

Spring Semester

The student chapter hosted a panel discussion about women in public administration during the spring. We had five female speakers with a wide variety of backgrounds such as a professor, former police chief, city council administrator and two nonprofit managers. These strong women shared their personal stories of their accomplishments and setbacks in the workforce. This even was both motivational and eye opening for attendees. The invitation for this event was extended to both graduate and undergraduate students in an effort to recruit more members. We were pleased with our attendance of roughly forty individuals. It was a highly successful event and allowed our chapter to engage the public and make them aware of current challenges faced by women in public administration.

We are excited to build off the successes of last year and continue to look for more ways to recruit students and offer more events that provide both networking and learning opportunities for students.