

The ICMA student Chapter at the University of Alabama at Birmingham had an outstanding 2015-2016 school year! Here is a recap of what all happened:

Fall Semester

The first event that our chapter held was “Inside ICMA.” This event served as an insider’s peak into the life of a city manager. We had three speakers for this event: Nathan Kelley, current ICMA employee and UAB MPA graduate; Patrick Bryant, who is currently the city manger of Talladega, Alabama, and a UAB MPA graduate; and Sam Gaston, city manager of Mountain Brook, Alabama, and former ICMA president. This event gave students the opportunity to ask questions about what a city manager truly does, and how ICMA can help local governments succeed.

The second event we had this past fall was “Building Sustainable Communities” featuring Charles Ball, Executive Director of the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Ball discussed what exactly the planning commission does and how they work with local governments. This event was a favorite among members.

Spring Semester

Our chapter decided to try something new by partnering with another student chapter in having a joint ICMA event. We invited the newly formed ICMA student chapter at Auburn University to join us for an Economic Development Tour of Mountain Brook, Alabama. This event featured key staff from the City of Mountain Brook who explained how they establish and maintain relationships with businesses in the area. The event ended with a tour of the newly developed “Lane Parke” area in Mountain Brook, which features an eloquent Grand Bohemian Hotel along with boutiques and shops—this experience was nothing short of “grand!” We look forward to having more joint events with other student chapters in the future.

In addition, our president at the time, Marybrook Burchfield, was asked to join a panel on “How and Why to Form an ICMA Chapter on Your Campus” at the Conference of Minority Public Administrators in Jackson, Mississippi. Our chapter was able to offer guidance and support to Jackson State University students interested in forming their own chapter. UAB-ICMA is proud to assist other universities in their founding efforts.

Finally, students from our local chapter were heavily involved with the Alabama City County Management Association. Three of our members—Marybrook

Burchfield, Courtney Roberts, and Dillon Wood—were selected as scholarship recipients to attend the ACCMA Winter Conference in Auburn, Alabama. Also, two of our members—Ayumi Bird and Dillon Wood—were selected to attend the ACCMA Summer Conference in Orange Beach, Alabama. While there, Dillon Wood was awarded a \$3,000 tuition reimbursement scholarship for the 2016-2017 school year from the Association. This was great opportunity to meet current state leaders, while also networking with peers.

We would also like to mention how proud we are of one of our former members—Mary Elizabeth Hendrix. Mary Elizabeth, who graduated this Spring, was selected for a Presidential Management Fellowship and an ICMA Local Government Management Fellowship. We are extremely proud of our members—past and present—and we are excited to see what the future holds!