

Annual Report 2015-2016

This has been a year of transition for our student chapter. As a majority of our members graduated the previous year, we were focused on attracting new students to the organization, while maintaining our close ties to public administration professionals in the St. Louis region.

Utilizing a new meeting format, our group has successfully achieved these goals and developed a strong foundation for future growth. We owe special thanks to our faculty advisor, Julianne Stone, Director of the Local Government Partnership between UMSL and East-West Gateway Council of Governments, and our chapter mentor, Andy Hixson, the City Administrator of Manchester, MO for their guidance and support.

Fall 2015

Our first meeting of the fall semester was hosted by Mr. Bob Shelton, the City Administrator of the City of Frontenac, MO. Held in the chambers of the board of alderman at city hall, our program consisted of a discussion of what being a professional public administrator is really like. Mr. Shelton and our chapter mentor, Mr. Hixson, led a discussion of the best aspects of their jobs as well as difficulties they encounter. Our members had the opportunity to ask questions about aspects of the profession that particularly interested them and gain feedback on the best ways to get noticed by employers.

In October, in lieu of our regular meetings, our group members were encouraged to attend a panel discussion on the minimum wage

hosted by the UMSL Public Policy and



Administration department. The panel, which included executive directors of several prominent non-profits here in St. Louis and an elected official, focused on the current debate over the potential benefits and consequences of raising the minimum wage.

Spring 2016

This January saw the very first UMSL-ICMA Student Chapter *Local Government Lunch & Learn*. Each month we coordinate with a different city official to hold our meetings at their city halls. Together we plan a short presentation on a topic related to public administration. Members of the chapter, students in the MPPA and Poli Sci departments at UMSL, and faculty are invited to these “brown bag” events.

Our inaugural *Lunch & Learn* was hosted by Bola Akande, the City Administrator with the City of Brentwood, MO. Ms. Akande led an engaging discussion of diversity issues in municipal government, and invited staff members from different departments in the City of Brentwood to participate in the discussion as well.

In February, George Ertle, the Assistant to the City Administrator with the City of Clayton, hosted our *Lunch & Learn*. Mr. Ertle gave a presentation on different communication strategies municipal governments can use to stay connected with their citizens.

The City of Creve Coeur hosted our *Lunch & Learn* in March. Led by City Administrator Mark Perkins, the presentation provided insight on what it takes to implement sustainability initiatives at the local level.

In April, the UMSL ICMA Student Chapter and other students from several local university MPA programs were invited to the St. Louis Area City/County Management Association's (SLACMA) monthly meeting and presentation to local government leaders. This invitation allowed our students to introduce themselves and to network with local administrators and managers.

May brought about graduation for the Class of 2016. Several ICMA Student Chapter members gathered at a reception to celebrate with members of the faculty and alumni.



Pictured are ICMA Student Chapter President and Vice-President Elliot Brown and Frank Johnson.

Our final event for the academic year will be a celebration in June with students, faculty, and local government officials celebrating the graduates from the MPPA program and also installing our new chapter officers for the upcoming year.

Goals

Once again, several of our student chapter members and officers have graduated and are now ready to begin their careers in public administration. With this in mind, we are focused on reaching out to new students next fall.

Our members have benefitted greatly from networking with local government officials and other students. We hope to keep growing the chapter, hosting interesting events like our *Local Government Lunch & Learn*, and reaching out to other schools in the St. Louis region.