

**2015-2016 ICMA Student Chapter Report for the
International City/County Management Association at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville**

The ICMA student chapter at the University of Tennessee had an eventful 2015-2016 academic year. In the fall of 2015, the student chapter held a general chapter meeting which focused on reinvigorating our chapter leadership. Due to spring and summer graduations, the chapter membership elected a new Vice President and a new Secretary/Treasurer. Additionally, a delegation of ICMA at UT members attended the fall 2015 Tennessee City Management Association conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The fall TCMA conference provided great learning opportunities to our members through the conference's featured speakers and sessions on current topics. The TCMA fall conference also offered great networking opportunities with city management professionals from across the state.

The ICMA at UT student chapter also held a number of events in the spring of 2016. In February, the student chapter, along with the East Tennessee chapter of ASPA, hosted Abbie Hudgens. Ms. Hudgens came to the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy and spoke to students and faculty about "Insights on the Public Service and Policy Change." Ms. Hudgens shared her story of how she began her career and how she came to be where she is today as the Director of the Workers' Compensation Division in the TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development. She illustrated how a career in public service can provide unexpected opportunities, make a difference, and spark personal growth. Ms. Hudgens gave several important bits of advice on how to have a successful career in public service, which left students inspired and ready to get out into the field.

Also, the ICMA at UT student chapter hosted an event with two city management professionals in the spring of 2016. The event was titled "Perspectives on Careers in City Management: a Q&A with Mark Watson and C. Seth Sumner." Mr. Watson serves as the City Manager of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and has had a long career in public service. Mr. Sumner serves as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Savannah, Tennessee, and is an alumnus of the MPPA program at UT. Mr. Watson and Mr. Sumner enlightened ICMA at UT chapter members by providing an overview of their careers, giving advice on how to have a successful career in public service, and by fielding numerous questions from the student audience.

Additionally, the student chapter was able to send a delegation to the spring 2016 Tennessee City Management Association conference in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. This conference provided our student delegation another opportunity to learn from the best management professionals from across the state through the programming and materials provided and through ample networking opportunities with our fellow conference attendees.

In sum, the 2015-2016 academic year provided a broad array of educational and entertaining events for the ICMA at UT membership. We hope the 2016-2017 year is even more exciting and successful!