

ICMA Student Chapter Report

Cornell University

2014-2015

Members of cICMA, Cornell's ICMA student chapter, come from Cornell's masters programs in the City and Regional Planning Department (CRP) and its Institute of Public Affairs (CIPA). Chapter officers come from both CRP and CIPA, and the chapter leverages that wider reach in collaborative relationships with the Organization of Cornell Planners (OCP), the Cornell Public Affairs Society (CPAS), and other student organizations from both programs. The chapter advisor is Professor Mildred Warner and the chapter mentor is County Administrator Joe Mareane.

Fall Semester

Chapter officers were: co-chairs, Rachel Shindman (CRP) and Patience Milrod (CIPA); outreach chair, Xiaquan (Evelyn) Fang (CIPA); and treasurer, Andy Martin (CRP). The officers met approximately once a week, to plan chapter outreach and programming.

On August 27, the chapter held an informational meeting, at which interested students learned about ICMA in general and cICMA in particular. Meeting materials included web links and the password for free student membership in ICMA. At that meeting, several students decided to join the chapter officers in attending ICMA's annual conference.

September 12-16, a delegation of Cornell students attended the ICMA Annual Conference. In connection with the conference, cICMA co-chair Patience Milrod participated as a member of the ICMA Advisory Board on Graduate Education.

On October 7, the chapter sponsored an informational interdepartmental mixer for students from CRP and CIPA. Almost 50 students attended, enjoyed pizza, sodas, beer and conversation, learned about cICMA and ICMA, and got weblinks and the password for student membership in the national organization.

On November 13, approximately 30 students attended the chapter's Local Government Panel, at which Tompkins County Administrator Joe Mareane and Town of Ithaca Town Supervisor Herb Engman spoke with wit and candor about challenges facing upstate New York local governments. The chapter provided refreshments, and both officials lingered after the event to chat with students informally.

Spring Semester

Chapter officers were: co-chairs, Hien Dinh (CRP) and Sarah Cantatore (CIPA); outreach chair, Luoxiaohan (Helen) Li (CIPA); and treasurer, Zhonghao (Gavin) Guo (CRP).

On March 9, the Chapter had an Interdepartmental Mixer for graduate students from the College of Engineering, CRP and CIPA, in coordination with OCP, CPAS, and the Engineering Graduate Student Association. The Mixer was at Big Red Barn and

more than 100 students attended the Mixer, sharing experiences from the semester break and enjoying refreshments and food.

On April 28, cICMA helped sponsor “Help Shape Ithaca’s Future” – an open house for Cornell students to learn about and discuss the new comprehensive regional plan for City of Ithaca. cICMA worked with the Cornell University Center for Engaged Learning and Research, Plan Ithaca, and the Women’s Planning Forum on this event. Students learned about the plan, enjoyed food and drinks, and had the opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts.

On May 4, the chapter held a study session for CRP and CIPA students. During the study session, the Chapter officers re-introduced cICMA and talked about what it has achieved since its establishment, and called for more students to join the chapter. The study session attracted more than 40 people to discuss their projects, review notes for exams, and de-stress before finals week. cICMA officers talked with students to gather ideas and suggestions for future Chapter events and opportunities. Food and refreshments were provided.

Planned Events for 2015-2016

We would like to hold two panel discussions and invite two groups of professional speakers to the campus. The first group will be locally focused on Ithaca and Tompkins County with topics such as Ithaca Downtown Alliance development, housing, and other current issues. The second group will be Cornell alumni who have worked in local government, spanning a range of cities in the US and hopefully internationally as well, to introduce their career paths and suggestions for professional development to the students.

We would like to host at least two department mixers to give students a chance to meet peers from other programs. The mixer this year with the engineering department was very successful and participants enjoyed meeting students from a department that they do not usually interact with. We would like to do this again and work with other departments, in addition to CIPA and CRP.