



# NEWSLETTER

## President's Message

Leon Churchill, Managing Director  
City of Reading, PA

*I can't change the direction of the wind. But I can adjust my sails.*

*-Anonymous*



There is a convergence of events this fall that should renew and encourage local government professionals. First, I think the Presidential Campaign provides the spotlight on national electoral politics and gives the country the opportunity to renew its commitment to democracy. It happens on a routine basis at the local level with (mostly) less bravado than its national counterpart. People get elected with their issues, some of which directly impact our livelihood, and we love it with great passion.

Secondly, there is the ICMA conference in Richmond this September. It is an opportunity to refresh our professional souls. You may not learn a lot from a nuts and bolts standpoint, but you will certainly learn the nuances of local government from others and be inspired by the young professionals who remind us that it is an honor to serve communities that trust us with their betterment. A new video produced by the KU Public Administration Department (<http://www2.ku.edu/~kupa/>) echoes this sentiment.

The KUCIMAT affiliation goes back to one of the first public administration programs of its type in the country, and certainly the most unique with its emphasis on local government management. That tradition, however, does not go without periodically re-thinking our mission. Mark Watson (g' 1978), KUCIMAT president-elect, has spearheaded a process that examines KUCIMAT's role in light of many positive changes for the public administration program. His questions forced considerable thought on our purpose, professionalism, and prospects as a profession. The results of that process should have direct impact on any by-law amendment considerations. Another group of KUCIMATs led by Steven Rogers (g' 1987) is re-examining our by-laws to ensure their applicability and focus for the future. These are formal processes, but you should take the initiative to voice your opinion any time. We hope your voice will translate into giving that matches your feelings about KUCIMATs and the Public Administration Department. I hope this time of renewal shows in your financial commitment.

It has indeed been a pleasure to serve as KUCIMAT president this past year. It is also an honor to serve the alumni organization affiliated with the most prestigious public administration in the land.

## KUCIMAT Banquet

The KUCIMAT banquet will be at the Richmond Convention Center, Room EII B and C, on Monday night beginning at 6:00 with a cash bar. **The cost will remain \$50 per person.** The choice of entrees will be Sliced Beef Tenderloin with Wild Mushroom Sauce, Garlic Mashed Redskin Potatoes and Seasonal Fresh Vegetables; Grilled Salmon with Lime Cilantro Vinaigrette, Tri Color Potatoes, and Seasonal Fresh Vegetables; and, a vegetarian option. The cost will cover the first year students in attendance and help subsidize the second year students. After the banquet, we will be joining the Illinois Managers Association to recognize Dave Limardi, Class of 1978, as President of ICMA.

To make reservations for this great event and all of the festivities, please contact Jamie at 785-864-9092 or [pquad@ku.edu](mailto:pquad@ku.edu). Please make checks out to KUCIMATs and sent them to:

**Public Administration Department, University of Kansas, 1541 Lilac Lane, Lawrence, KS 66045**

# DEPARTMENT NEWS

## The Public Management Center Now Administered by the Department

By Marilu Goodyear and Charles Jones

Upon a recommendation by the External Review Team that visited KU last spring, the administrative reporting line for the Public Management Center, based in Topeka, Kansas is changing from the Division of Continuing Education to the Department of Public Administration. This will allow the Department to have a full comprehensive program extending from undergraduate to doctoral programs along with a professional education arm. The mission of the Public Management Center is professional development of the public workforce, providing a forum for policy discourse, and linking KU resources to the challenge of public management. Core programs, at the Center include basic supervisory training, an Emerging Leaders Academy (aimed toward preparing individuals for advancement), and the Certified Public Manager program, accredited by the National Certified Public Manager Consortium, and delivered in Topeka, western Kansas and the Kansas City area. In addition to these standing programs, the PMC offers a wide variety of custom courses: either under contract to a specific organization, or offered generally on an open enrollment basis. The PMC also provides consulting services in the areas of strategic planning, facilitation, coaching, teambuilding, and more.

Charles Jones, Center Director, teaches in the MPA program and the Center manages the program based in Topeka providing classrooms and advising for the MPA students. The PMC is a learning community, linking core programs into an integrated pathway of professional and intellectual growth. We are very pleased to welcome them officially as members of our department and look forward to even better collaborations with Continuing Education to provide the very best professional education opportunities to public servants in Kansas and KU alumni.

### Focus on Research

Justin's research focuses on local government financial management. At the moment he's studying, among other things, the factors that determine why and how investors buy and sell municipal bonds, how local governments use "rainy day funds" to prepare for economic downturns and lower their bond issuance costs, and how municipalities develop and implement capital budgets. He has presented his work to a variety of regulatory bodies including the Internal Revenue Service, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, and the Kansas Department of Revenue. He has also done applied research, including a recent project where he led a team of researchers who evaluated the Kansas Department of Commerce's business assistance programs. That evaluation earned a "Best Practice" recognition from the University Economic Development Association.

### Justin Marlowe



Justin Marlowe joined the PUAD faculty in 2004. He grew up in Pulaski, WI, and worked for the City of Marquette, MI before earning a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He teaches the core MPA courses in budgeting and statistics, and a doctoral-level course in quantitative research methods. Before submitting his whole self to the public service calling he moonlighted as a professional musician, playing mostly jazz, rock, and polka gigs at respectable venues across the Midwest. He reached his musical apex on New Year's Eve 1999 when he played with Alvin Styczynski—the undisputed polka king of northeast Wisconsin—to a packed house at the Oneida Bingo and Casino.

### Questions for Professor Marlowe?

785-864-9058  
jmarlowe@ku.edu