



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2008
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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

Dear KUCIMATs,

Greetings! I hope 2008 will be an opportune time to re-think, re-design, and re-energize yourself and the people you work with.

Our country is in a slowing economy, mortgage crisis, and other factors that make our professional lives more difficult. These are the times where professionals in local government have to prove their worth, and I cannot think of a group of better prepared individuals than those who graduated from the Edwin O. Stene Program in Public Administration. I am sure we all take pride in the Public Administration Department's top ranking for urban management education by U.S. News & World Report, but all of us bear some responsibility to validate that ranking from a practitioner's perspective. We have an advantage because we are KUCIMATs, but that advantage is not realized until we network, communicate, and express empathy for each other. It may be helpful to take stock in how KUCIMATs impacts your life and career. For example, KUCIMATs gave me my first two jobs, is godfather to my oldest daughter, referred two people to the program and possibly a third on the way, and has provided me with three KUCIMATs who are always there for me for professional and personal advice. These are truly priceless gifts.

We should not be bashful about applying to ICMA's 2008 Annual Awards Program. The nominations are due June 14. I suggest we debunk any idea that applying is vain or comes from communities that have sufficient staff to assemble the application. I believe we are the best in the business and it should get periodically validated. I'd apply myself, but I have little to offer in the way of innovation when old urban cities demand cleaning up ineffective systems and doing the mundane consistently well.

The KUCIMAT board met during the ICMA conference in September. I think you will find the board highly motivated and willing to serve, but we need to hear from you as to your concerns and goals for KUCIMATs. The committee structure that was set up two years ago provides ample opportunities to get involved in your alumni association over the course of this next year. In addition, our hopes cannot be realized without resources, so please take the opportunity to give to KUCIMATs to the best of your ability. My wife is a fundraiser, and she frequently states that people give to the institutions and causes that move the heart. It only makes sense for us to give to the institution that in many ways sustains our standing in the local government profession.

There are other ways to contribute to the mission of KUCIMATs. I am typically very cautious about the issues espoused by ICMA, which sometimes takes on the personality of a few board members or presidents. However, it is difficult to deny the real demographic shifts happening in the U.S. and its impact on every aspect of American life. To mention a few, those changes include immigration, aging, and disengagement from civic life. Baby boomers are leaving every facet of life in this country including local government management. Every one of us has friends, family, and acquaintances who have a real burning desire to serve communities, and it costs very little to communicate with those individuals and give them the opportunity to see the burning desire to serve in you.

If you are interested in participating in the KUCIMAT committees (recruitment, communications and endowment) or have ideas that you would like your board to address, I hope you will contact me.

Sincerely,
Leon Churchill (g '87)

STUDENT & FACULTY PROFILES

WORDS FROM A RECENT GRADUATE

Megan Dodge, Class of 2005-2007

Megan Dodge, proud to be a native Kansan, recently completed her Bachelor's degree in Public Administration and Spanish at KU. During her undergraduate career, she jumped at many opportunities to be an active citizen. She became involved in student organizations in leadership roles and studied in Spain for a semester. Megan also organized an educational trip to the US-Mexico border to learn firsthand about the immigration issues that are shaping America's political landscape. As a participant in a women's leadership institute in Washington, DC, she enhanced her leadership skills and learned more about government and the legislative process.

During the past two semesters, Megan served as a research assistant for Professor Kelly LeRoux. By participating in the project, Megan learned about the ways in which nonprofit organizations can increase civic participation among the people they serve. In addition to performing research, Megan and two other research assistants ventured into the field when they gave a presentation to the Coalition of Hispanic Organizations in Kansas City in December. By sharing the information she learned during the research project with working professionals, Megan experienced the importance of sharing knowledge with people in the community, thus bridging the gap between the university and the community. With this experience, Megan was reminded of one of the reasons she originally chose to study Public Administration: this field not only focuses on theory but also on the implementation of that theory.

Megan eagerly anticipates being a student in the Master's of Public Administration Program, Intern Option at KU. Although she was originally drawn to Public Administration because of her interest in city management, she is exploring the possibilities of a career in the nonprofit sector. Upon receiving her Master's degree, she hopes to work in an area that will allow her to use her Spanish skills in the field. She also hopes to find a career in which she can positively impact a community, whether that is on a local, national or global scale. She is currently teaching English as a Second Language at a community college.

Be sure to visit www.KUCIMAT.org

- Find information about how to receive Greener Grass, an in-house listing of employment opportunities
- Look up contact information for classmates and other fellow KUCIMATS in the online directory
- View photos of past ICMA conferences
- Update your own contact information in the online directory

Jared Llorens

Assistant Professor



Jared Llorens is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Administration at the University of Kansas. Prior to beginning an academic career, he served as a Human Resources Specialist with both the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and the U.S. Department of Labor. His research interests include public sector compensation, human resources automation, and civil service reform. His recent work has appeared in *Public Personnel Management* and the *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*. He received his BA from Loyola University, New Orleans in 1996, his MPA from the University of Texas at Austin's LBJ School of Public Affairs in 1999 and his PhD in Public Administration from the University of Georgia in 2007.

**Questions for Professor
Llorens?**

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DEPARTMENT NEWS



Chair's Message

Marilu Goodyear, Department Chair
Public Administration
University of Kansas

We are indeed proud of the KU Jayhawks athletic accomplishments this year! How about those Jayhawks! Fortunately for KU, the quality of the academic programs on campus match and exceed our athletic accomplishments. Certainly the Department of Public Administration is a major part of that quality academic and professional tradition. The Department is fortunate to have the highest quality faculty, most intelligent and enthusiastic students possible, and the absolute best alumni in the world.

In the last few years, we have added five new faculty members to our ranks. These young scholars are making major contributions to our department and the discipline. They join the nine of us who have been around awhile and contribute excellent teaching and significant research. Last year, the public administration faculty published thirty-nine articles and book chapters, gave seven conference presentations and won seven major academic and professional awards. Quite a record for such a small group! I encourage you to visit our website and get to know our new faculty.

Our department has also expanded our student profile, extending the magic of the KU student experience! We are proud of our 105 students in the Certified Public Management Program (taught in three locations across Kansas), our 51 undergraduate majors (who take classes at the Edwards Campus in Overland Park), our 92 career-option students, our 14 intern-option students, and our 9 doctoral students. All of those students are working hard on papers, mid-term exams, internship challenges, and PhD dissertations. We are truly grateful for the support the KUCIMAT community gives to both the students and the department.

It is indeed a privilege to be selected as the Chair of the KU Department of Public Administration. I am humbled by the opportunity and the challenge of ensuring that our programs remain vital, relevant, and significant. I look forward to meeting all of you as I am able to travel around the country and participate in ICMA and ASPA meetings. I welcome all of your suggestions for the improvement of our programs and services to students and alumni.

As our department continues to grow, we remain focused on the education of all students in the application of the arts and science of administration to good government. Indeed, this is our joint passion to make substantial contributions to public service in a global environment. As Leon challenges us in his communication, we will seek to find innovation and creative ways to contribute to our communities. Thanks to all of you who make those contributions each day and who donate your valuable time and money to our success.

Sincerely,
Marilu Goodyear



*Graduation is just
around the corner...*

On Friday evening, April 25th, the Department of Public Administration will be honoring UG, MPA and PhD graduates who completed their degree requirements in Summer or Fall 2007 or will complete their degree requirements in Spring 2008.

Festivities will begin with a reception, hosted by the KUCIMAT Alumni Association, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Jayhawk Room (5th floor) of the Kansas Union on campus. All KUCIMATs are invited to attend along with the graduates and their families. To attend the reception, no RSVP is needed.

The Graduation Banquet, hosted by the Public Administration department, will take place in the Ballroom (5th floor) of the Kansas Union, at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend this fun event! The RSVP form and more banquet information can be found by clicking on "[Banquet Form](#)" below.

Banquet Form