



# NEWSLETTER

KUCIMAT 2008-2009  
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KUCIMAT President Mark S. Watson  
City Administrator  
Yuma, Arizona

Dear Fellow KUCIMATs:

What a difference a few months make since my last comment to all of us on the front line in local government! Since the beginning of the year, we inaugurated our first African-American President, have seen the largest economic downturn in our careers, and the largest public investment in our states and cities since the 1970s. This is a time that calls to the forefront all those skills that we learned at KU. New ideas and approaches are needed throughout local government to

implement projects during a time when our citizens need them the most.

It is also a time when we should recognize our fellow KUCIMATs for the leadership they provide to citizens throughout the United States. In the coming months, it will be time to nominate our peers for the annual KUCIMAT's Award program. I particularly urge you to think of those in outlying states and communities that are doing much during these challenging times. Please think ahead of those we wish to recognize at our annual gathering at ICMA. I will send you more information in the coming weeks.

At this time, our on-campus students are seeking internships to complete their second year program. However, due to the economy, cities and agencies may be cutting back in supporting many positions to make a balanced budget. This is when the KUCIMAT network must come to life. If you have, or know of, a potential internship or you can use one of KU's "best and brightest" please get in touch with the KU offices right away. Our future MPA students deserve positions that recognize their skills and will direct them fully on a public administration career.

On a final note, please remember that with the downturn in the economy, KU needs our help to continue to grow endowments and scholarships. When KU calls, please designate the KU Public Administration School as the beneficiary of your generosity. There is always a need and as the costs of education grow for our students, your help continues the heritage that is ours at Kansas University.

Rock Chalk

Mark Watson

**April KUCIMAT Board Meeting:** At the April Board Meeting which will be in Lawrence on Friday, April 24 at 3:00 P.M., the board will consider several by-law changes. For Board Members not attending the conference, they will be able to participate by conference call. More information will be coming with the Dues Notices on the by-law changes.

**Dues Notices:** Dues notices will be sent shortly. The board has approved a three tier system of dues which will allow alumni graduating within the last five years to pay \$25 and those over five years \$50. Retirees will remain at \$10.00. Also included in the dues notice will be more information on the By-Law changes that will be on the Board's April 23 agenda.

# STUDENT & FACULTY PROFILES

## Class President's Message

Nickie Lee, Class of 2008-2010



Hello again from the Class of 2010! We have now completed two semesters of coursework in the MPA program. This will be our last semester in Lawrence, and then we are off to our full time internships around the country. I share mixed emotions with my classmates: excitement for upcoming adventures but sadness to leave Lawrence and leave each other.

We have been very busy these past few months. Hannes Zacharias, our Practitioner-in-Residence from Johnson County, has organized tours of local government services including Lawrence's wastewater treatment plant, Johnson County Developmental Supports facility, and the Johnson County Jail. These experiences, along with our classes and internships, have been very valuable and eye opening.

In January, we hosted the Class of 2009 for dinner and bowling.

In the tradition of class vs. class bowling, we challenged 2009 to a bowling match after dinner at Free State. The game ended in a virtual tie: the average score for 2010 was 111.6 pins, with 2009 close behind at 111.04 pins. This was a little too close to call, so we officially challenge 2009 to another match!

Finally, we would like to thank the KUCIMATS for the support we have been given these past few semesters. If you would like to contact any of us, you can find our contact info at [http://www2.ku.edu/~kupa/students/intern/08\\_10/](http://www2.ku.edu/~kupa/students/intern/08_10/).



## Charles Jones

Director, Public Management Center



Charles is director of the Kansas University Public Management Center – which was recently integrated into Department of Public Administration -- and Chair of the Douglas County Commission. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Kansas and a Masters of Public Administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. His career spans the public and private sectors, principally in the area of environmental management. Between 1991 and 1995, he served as the Governor-appointed Director of Environment at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Within the MPA program Charles teaches Public Policy and Administration; Budgeting and Policy Analysis; Role, Context and Ethics of Public Administration; and Collaborative Leadership, Professionalism, and Citizen Engagement (with Professor Nalbandian). Charles also teaches in the Center's Certified Public Manager Program, Emerging Leaders Academy, and other professional education programs.

Charles brings the elective, appointed and entrepreneurial perspective to policy and technical aspects of public management, and helps strengthen the bridges between PA research and application.

He lives with wife Carol and their dogs in the historic Pinckney Neighborhood of Lawrence. Outside the classroom, Charles enjoys fly-fishing, woodworking, and playing the ukulele.

Any questions for Charles? You can contact him at [cfjones@ku.edu](mailto:cfjones@ku.edu)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

*You are cordially invited to attend the graduation banquet honoring the 2008-2009 Public Administration graduates*

Friday, April 24, 2009 at 6:30 pm  
Kansas Memorial Union, Ballroom (5th Floor)  
1301 Jayhawk Boulevard, Lawrence, Kansas

A reception will be held prior to the banquet from 5:30-6:30 pm in the Jayhawk Room of the Kansas Memorial Union (5th Floor)

Banquet Cost:

Graduates - Free, Guests - \$35

Current PA Students - \$20

Children ages 2-10 - \$15

Children under 2 - Free

To RSVP go to <http://www2.ku.edu/~kupa/pdf/2009InvitationRSVP.pdf>



## **61st Annual KU City/County Management Conference “The Economy in Crisis: Local Strategies for Weathering the Storm”**

The conference will be on April 23 and 24. It will feature four sessions:

The first session will focus on “Navigating the Fiscal Crisis: Tested Strategies for Local Government Leaders” which was commissioned by ICMA, and developed by researchers at the Alliance for Innovation (a partnership of ICMA, the Innovation Groups, and Arizona State University).

Representatives for the Alliance and ICMA will be present to discuss the report, report on findings regarding what cities are currently doing, including a city in Kansas, and to get feedback. Their presentation will include what they have learned between now and the conference and will include new material not included in the report. More information on the report can be found at: <http://www.icma.org/main/ns.asp?nsid=4316&hsid=1&scid=25>

Sessions two and three will focus on strategies to “weather” the storm. Since it appears the Federal Government will be a major player as a potential funding source, in the second part of the conference, we will have representatives from the federal level to discuss the status of those programs. The third part will focus on local and state strategies. We have invited key players at these levels to participate. The final session will deal with the future from the business, federal, state and local perspectives.

To register, please go to [http://www.continuinged.ku.edu/programs/city\\_county/](http://www.continuinged.ku.edu/programs/city_county/)