



NEWSLETTER

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KUCIMAT Board Nominations

Dick Chesney, Secretary Treasurer, Katie Corder, Bryon Smith, and Kirk Zoellner will be ending their terms on the KUCIMAT Board this year. We will also need nominations for President-Elect. If you are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone, please contact Ray Hummert at the contact information below.

KUCIMAT Awards Program

The purpose of the KUCIMAT organization is to promote and foster the professional self-improvement of its membership, to advance the urban management profession through its members and to assist and promote the continued improvement and development of the Kansas University Master in Public Administration program and curriculum.

Edwin O. Stene Award for Managerial Excellence

This award recognizes individuals who have performed in an exceptional manner in the management of the organization in which they are employed. This may include establishment of a new and innovative program, resolution of a difficult organizational problem or completion of a long-term organization goal.

Dena Laurent-Sorensen Profile in Courage Award Profile in Courage Award

This award recognizes individuals who have made personal and/or professional progress by overcoming obstacles through exceptional courage, fortitude and adherence to the high ideals which exemplify the urban management profession.

KUCIMAT Lifetime Achievement Award

This award recognizes individuals who have, through cumulative career achievements and successes, furthered the purpose of the KUCIMAT organization.

KUCIMAT Intern Excellence Award

This award recognizes interns who have performed in an exceptional manner during the internship year.

The awards are given on an annual basis at the KUCIMAT banquet held during the annual ICMA conference. All members of the KUCIMAT organization are eligible to receive an award. Award winners shall be chosen based upon a nomination letter submitted on behalf of the nominee. An awards committee, consisting of the KUCIMAT president, president-elect, and past-president will make written recommendations to the full KUCIMAT executive board which shall approve the issuance of all awards.

Please send your nominations to:

*Ray Hummert, Public Administration Department
The University of Kansas
1541 Lilac Lane
Lawrence, KS 66045
785-864-9097 Fax: 785-864-5208
rhummert@ku.edu*

STUDENT & FACULTY PROFILES

WORDS FROM A RECENT GRADUATE
Shannon Portillo, PhD student

I came to Public Administration with little previous exposure to the field. My undergraduate work was in Political Science and I transferred from a graduate program in American Studies. Since I had very little background in Public Administration I began my coursework with the intern option MPA students. I shared with these students a desire to balance our idealistic views about how the government should work and our growing realistic views about what the real work of Public Administration entailed. Many of my MPA classes included career option students which allowed me to learn about the world of practitioners and challenges being faced by people in the field. The career option students' willingness to share their experiences with me was invaluable as I progressed through the program.

As my graduate career progressed I was able to teach in our new undergraduate program. This allowed for a renewed sense of idealism, engaging the field's "big ideas" with students who were largely new to the field. I was also able to translate my research directly to students who could go to their workplaces and use it. While teaching the cultural diversity class there were multiple instances of students telling me that they used the material we were talking about in class and applied it directly to their current work situation. One such instance was an exercise where students compared various cities' diversity statements. One of the students said after that exercise he suggested a change in his city, based on neighboring cities' policies, and his boss thought it was a good idea. Real policy change happened because of work that was being done in the classroom.

After my three and half years in this program I feel ready to go to another university and continue to contribute to the education of future practitioners and researchers. My research has been enhanced because of the many professionals I have been exposed to in this program. And because of my exposure to working professionals I take away the desire to continue to do high level research that is useful to practitioners and speaks to various academic audiences. I know that my future work will be rooted in the broad experiences I have had in this program, and as the department continues to expand in its undergraduate and Ph.D. programs I am sure that it will continue its rich tradition of excellence in Public Administration education.

Could Your Organization Use a Green Tape Evaluation?

If you are interested in an evaluation of your organization's internal rules, consider participating in PUAD Professor Leisha DeHart-Davis's continuing research on effective organizational rules, dubbed "green tape." Evaluation participation entails in-person interviews with a small sample of employees, as well as a mail survey of employees. Professor DeHart-Davis will contribute her time to conducting interviews, designing mail surveys, analyzing data, and providing a PowerPoint presentation of results. Participating organizations must absorb mail survey costs, which typically cost about \$5 per surveyed employee. (Internet surveying is also possible). Interested organizations should contact lddavis@ku.edu.

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**

Leisha DeHart-Davis



Public Administration Assistant Professor Leisha DeHart-Davis is a native South Carolinian, although she is particularly proud of being a descendent of Haplogroup K, just like Katie Couric and Ötzi the Iceman. Her degrees include a B.A. from University of South Carolina (1986), an MS in Public Policy from Georgia Tech (1993), and a PhD in Public Policy from Georgia Tech (2000). After receiving her undergraduate degree, she lived in New York City for four years, working in different administrative capacities of Off-Broadway and regional theatre. Her work, published in JPART and PAR, focuses on bureaucracy, in particular "green tape" or effective rules.

Questions for Professor DeHart-Davis?
785-864-9022
lddavis@ku.edu

DEPARTMENT NEWS

The student organization, Campus KUCIMATs was established in December of 2007 to provide unity among students of public administration and others interested in the field. The main goal for the first semester of operation was to provide students with face time with area practitioners on important topics of the day. The talks provided students of all varieties the chance to sit in round-table discussions with professionals. We met with Assistant City Administrator Laura Gay and Planner/Sustainability Chair Danielle Murray of Mission, Kansas to learn how local governments can work toward greener practices. City Administrator Mike Scanlon of Mission and CFO Jack Manahan of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas led a discussion of the current state of the economy and how it effects local government budgets.

These talks were successful, but by no means did they accomplish the goals of the organization. With the overall mission of providing unifying opportunities and practical educational experiences to students interested in PA, there lies before us a great deal of work to be done. Students interested in participating in this organization met on May 8 to set goals for the next academic year. These goals include “marketing” the benefits of participation with this organization to all students and PA faculty and hosting both social and practical experiences for all students. These fall within the overarching goal of getting to know fellow PA students better. Other items discussed in the meeting include organizational structure, ideas for how best to accommodate students at all campuses and with all work and life schedules, ways to include students who don’t have time to hold an office or attend meetings, and when and how officers should be elected to best represent their student groups. The ideas presented at this meeting were innovative and should prove to make the organization a beneficial entity for all members.

It is my hope and the hope of my fellow Campus KUCIMATs that this organization will thrive and that it will provide the unifying experiences that students of public administration have desired in both social and academic climates. We hope that it will open the doors for communication and collaboration among us all as students, and that it will bring the kind of fraternity that exists within the KUCIMAT alumni organization at an earlier stage in the process of earning our degrees. We hope you will join us in this endeavor.

Jenny Hesseltine
President, Campus KUCIMATs



Professor wins Dimock Award

(Pictured Left): Sanjay Pandey, assistant professor, was awarded the American Society for Public Administration Dimock Award. Pandey, fourth from left, is pictured receiving the award with, from left, graduate students Paul Brandenburger and Susan Keim, ASPA President Harvey White; and graduate students Ed Stazyk and Doug Norsby. The award is given in recognition of the best lead article published during the previous year in the Public Administration Review.



GO JAYHAWKS! Celebrating the Jayhawk's National Championship are (pictured above) KU alumni and fans. KUCIMATs pictured above with their friends are Craig Dawson, Kevin Frazell, Clint Gridley, Justin Miller and Dianne Miller. While not at the last game, KU alumni, Sharron Klumpp also supported the exciting KU basketball season.

GRADUATION CEREMONY

Congratulations, Graduates...

On April 25th, we honored the Public Administration graduates and celebrated their accomplishment with friends and family.

Congratulations to the Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral students!



Bachelors Graduates

Kristen Allen	Daniel Lenz
Michael Appleby	John Martinez
Michael Carmichael	Matt McGinley
Erik Collier	Wade Sanner
Megan Dodge	Grady Southard
Craig Golom	Dustin Swartz
Matt Harper	Weston Turner
Rebecca Kress	Kari Wagner
Dan Lady	Ashley Watts

Masters Graduates

Tom Beckley	Tom Langer
Mark Bradford	Johnny Luevano
Greg Clay	Scott Macke
Angela Dittrich	Jack Martin
Chris Engel	Jarrod Panter
Leslee Fonseca	Jason Phillips
Jaime Gaggero	Kathy Pryor
McKinlee Gibson	Chris Simecka
Kelsey Gowin	Kiva Simmons
John Harrenstein	Mark Terry
Meredith Hauck	Shelby Teufel
Jeff Hudson	Maggie Thompson
Abby Jaskolski	Jaime Tkachyk
Phil Jones	Linda Williams

Doctoral Graduate

Shannon Portillo

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



"Men (People) make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better."

- Harry S. Truman