



NEWSLETTER

KUCIMAT 2008-2009

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KUCIMAT President Mark S. Watson
City Administrator
Yuma, Arizona

Dear Fellow KUCIMATS:

Tradition at KU is one of the crowning achievements of “wearing the blue” and yelling the Rock Chalk Chant. Also, among them is the consistent ranking of the Kansas University Urban Management programs as the #1 school in the nation! This past week, as I attended the “TV Watch” party in Scottsdale, Arizona with 20 other Jayhawks, I took the liberty of talking about our

#1 program to those that would appreciate a #1 ranking, not only in basketball! To my surprise, there was not an awareness of the program by these recent graduates.

People are interested in our program and found my descriptions of our programs interesting. Did you know that in Arizona, KUCIMATS are managers of Yuma, Flagstaff, Sedona, Chandler, Goodyear and Deputy Manager in Tucson?? I am sure the web is wide across the nation when you examine our involvement in local government. I say this to point out the need for us to understand the impact we are making on the many lives represented by our respective communities. KUCIMAT David Limardi is now representing KUCIMATS as President of the International City/County Management Association.

As President of the KUCIMATS this year, I want to urge all of us to share our stories and engage as fellow KUCIMATs and recognize the tradition we represent. Recently, in Richmond, nearly 150 Jayhawks gathered at ICMA to celebrate another year of impacting local governments. Our impact is great!

I want us to remember the past with great managers such as my mentors George Schrader, Leland Nelson and Buford Watson. I continue to share the present with my 30-year class of '78: David Watkins (Texas), David Limardi (Illinois), Kevin Frazell (Minnesota), Roger Kroh (Kansas) and Mike Letcher (Arizona). As I look to the future, I think of my past interns such as Gary Ortiz (Kansas), Matt Wojnowski (Texas), Harold Stewart (Nebraska) and not to mention my son, Kevin, Assistant to the CM in Keizer, Oregon and current KU intern, Greg Stopka.

Our tradition is based on the KUCIMAT network that continues to provide the best and brightest urban administrators for this country. In the year to come, spread the word and inform our communities, city councils, state associations, alumni, prospective students and fellow citizens that we are proud of our heritage in the KU School of Public Administration. With the economic situations hitting our country, they will need us now more than ever!
Rock Chalk, Jayhawk!

STUDENT & FACULTY PROFILES

Class President's Message

Nickie Lee, Class of 2008-2010



Hello from the Class of 2010! I can't believe we're already done with half of the fall semester. We've now been on campus since June and have thoroughly enjoyed our coursework and experiences on campus. Our first ICMA conference was especially exciting; thank you again to those of you who donated money and gave us valuable advice at the conference. You may have noticed that we were the first KUCIMAT class in a long time to wear red polos!

We fully realize that this is a complicated year to enter local government. We're entering into the profession with "E's": the economy, the environment, and the election. Our budgeting course with Dr. Marlowe coincided beautifully with many of our internship's budget cycles, so we were able to immediately apply what we learned. Many of us are also working on sustainability projects for our cities. Finally, several of my classmates work for counties and have been able to see the election process. I am increasingly impressed and inspired by how influential local government can be in solving our national and worldwide problems.

As we enter into the holiday season, we're all looking for the balance between enjoying the present and looking to the future. Full time internship applications are beginning, and we are starting to ask ourselves where we want to be next year. For now, we are having a great time on campus, learning the KU traditions and, of course, studying. If you would like to get in contact with any of the members of the Class of 2010, please don't hesitate to e-mail: nlee@ku.edu.

Kelly LeRoux



Kelly LeRoux is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Administration at the University of Kansas. Her research interests include government-nonprofit relations, service contracting, municipal service delivery, and metropolitan governance. Her work has been published in *Urban Affairs Review*, the *American Review of Public Administration*, *Public Works Management and Policy*, and the *International Journal of Organizational Theory and Behavior*. She is the editor of "Service Contracting: A Local Government Guide", ICMA Press 2007.

Questions for Professor LeRoux?

E-mail her at kleroux@ku.edu.



Some Athletic KUCIMATS

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Chair's Message



Marilu Goodyear
Public Administration
Department Chair

This year is turning out to be a great year for the Department of Public Administration! Our MPA students are working hard in class and on the job, in their internships and full time jobs! Our undergraduate program is now the largest program at the Edwards Campus, our location in Overland Park. We have admitted a record number of intelligent and dedicated new doctoral students headed for great contributions to public service education. Our faculty members continue to produce great research and impress our colleagues at other schools. This is a great time to be at KU.

Our other major project this year relates to the MPA curriculum. Last year we went through a Kansas Board of Regents External Review process. As part of that process the external reviewers recommended that we review last year to evaluate our MPA curriculum. An important part of this process will be feedback from those who know best the value and impact of the KU MPA degree, YOU. Kathy Woerner, of Cedar Park, Texas has volunteered to lead a process to solicit feedback. Stay tuned for more information about this later this fall.

Another result of the External Review was a recommendation that the Public Management Center based in Topeka, Kansas change its reporting line to the Department. This will allow a closer relationship between KU's professional development aim and our academic department. This change has already resulted in new research and training collaborations to the betterment of our department and to KU's ability to serve the community in the area of professional development. Stay tuned for more information about these changes in the future.

Here on the hill we think of all of the KUCIMATS far and wide who do so much for their communities on a daily basis. We want to thank you for your service and your dedication to helping us educate the next generation. Please remember that the deadline for applications to the intern-option program is February 1st, 2009. We appreciate your referrals and all of your assistance with our recruitment process.

Sincerely,
Marilu Goodyear



Professor John Nalbandian was awarded the Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence by the "surprise patrol" while teaching class August 25th.

The Kemper Fellowships recognize outstanding teachers and advisors at KU. John is very deserving and we are very pleased to see this recognition from the University.

In addition to his classroom contributions, John's work with the competency project is getting to be well known across the country for its leading edge approach to student accountability. We are indeed proud of this work and are grateful to John for his leadership! We are proving out departmental excellence in teaching with a Kemper two years in a row. A news article about the award and the recipients can be reached at:

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/august/26/kemper826.shtml>

KUCIMAT AWARDS

Edwin O. Stene Award for Managerial Excellence

Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, has spent the past two decades serving key management roles within city government in Texas and Kansas before serving as secretary of KDHE since 2003. In five years at KDHE, Bremby has become the longest serving secretary in the history of the agency. Along with serving the Governor on policy creation and enforcement, Bremby has worked diligently on behalf of his agency employees to improve working conditions with changes in salary structures, flex-time work schedules, an infant at work program for parents, and an emphasis on increasing training and professional development opportunities. Rod fully exemplifies the ideals of the KUCIMAT organization and continues to further its purpose by his achievements and successes.

KUCIMAT Lifetime Achievement Award

Prior to his retirement from the City of Blue Springs, MO in 2005, Fred R. Siems had over forty years of service to the city management profession. In August 1978, Fred became the first City Administrator of Blue Springs, MO. Until his retirement in 2005, Fred had the distinction of being Blue Springs only City Administrator and the longest any one person has been a city administrator of a single city in the State of Missouri. Fred guided the development of Blue Springs from a population of 10,000 to almost 50,000. Fred has always been a proud KUCIMAT. Even in retirement, Fred continues to have an impact on local government management by serving as consultant to Jackson County in their transformation to a professionally led organization.

KUCIMAT Intern Excellence Award

John Harrenstein won this award for his enthusiasm, inquisitive nature and the initiative he demonstrates. John was promoted to the position of Management and Budget Analyst following the successful completion of his internship year with Johnson County Government. John's greatest contribution to the Johnson County community has been the creation of a human services map of Greater Kansas City. Using GIS technologies, the map illustrates what human services (mental, public health, corrections, etc.) are being utilized by households in the metropolitan area. John invests himself fully in his projects, and has the ability to think strategically about how to accomplish proposal objectives as well as the overall mission of the organization. John has made a positive difference in Johnson County.



The 2008-2010 Master of Public Administration class at ICMA