



NEWSLETTER



KUCIMAT President

Cynthia Boecker

Assistant City Manager of Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Fellow KUCIMATS,

I am pleased and honored to serve as president of this organization – one that holds a very special place in my heart. Those of you who have heard me speak about the KU MPA program know that I think of the KUCIMAT organization as an extended family. We all are united by our passion for service and our commitment to making communities better, through our work but also by our private efforts as volunteers in our children's schools, in churches, and social organizations. When thinking about that spirit of service, I think about how we can strengthen the community that is our KUCIMAT family. What can we do for the KU MPA program? How do we give back? Three things come to mind immediately: mentoring, identification of new talent to support a nationally recognized program and monetary support.

One of the first memories I have of starting graduate school was the sense of being part of something larger than myself. As MPA students, we learned from day one of the rich history of this program and the focus placed not only on a strong academic education, but providing hands on, practical experience in local government management. The internships we were able to secure provided us with new mentors and role models to whom we could turn for assistance and guidance throughout our career. Those first days on campus also offered us a new set of mentors: our classmates. Arguably, the best part of being a KUCIMAT is the vast network of managers from across the country, and across generations, who have been "around the block" a time or two and can provide guidance and assistance to those who are new to the profession. Sometimes it is necessary to step back and re-evaluate our success in serving as a mentor to others – and what giving back in that way does to reenergize our own commitment to the profession!

The prestige of this program is supported through continually identifying and attracting high quality students to the program. As graduates, we are the best advertisement for what the program represents. As employers, we also have the opportunity to identify talent and passion and direct those students toward KU. We also have the ability to hire interns and continue the mentoring in that way.

Finally, the KUCIMATS are extraordinarily generous in their monetary support of this program. Alumni support for scholarships, student travel to ICMA, student facilities and MPA student support is critical. The level of alumni giving also reflects the prestige of the program.

We as KUCIMATS have so much of which to be proud. Let's continue the long tradition that began with Ed Stene and those who built this program and make a commitment to continue to give back by mentoring students, helping to identify the next generation of the KUCIMAT family and giving generously in the next fund drive.

Rock Chalk Jayhawk!

KUCIMAT Elections: In April, the KUCIMAT Board adopted amendments to the by-laws that allowed an electronic process to elect board members. The nominating committee recommended a slate of:

President-Elect: Clay Pearson, City Manager, Novi, MI

Board Members:

Kathy Woerner, Assistant to the City Manager, Cedar Park, TX

Liz Boen, Senior Management Analyst, Reno, NV

Phil Smith-Hanes, Assistant County Administrative, Humboldt County, CA

To vote, please go to http://kuclas.qualtrics.com/SE?SID=SV_3r9mLPquVcNP8hK&SVID=Prod
You will have until Friday, November 6, 2009 to cast your ballot.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS



Letter from the Class President 2009-2011 Raymond Lee

Greetings from the Class of 2011. I hope everyone who attended ICMA Conference had a great time. For the alumni who were not able to attend the conference we missed you and we look forward to seeing you during the KU Spring Conference. On behalf of our class I would like to express our sincere appreciation for funding our trip to the ICMA Conference. The information we learned during the conference is priceless. The contacts we made and the discussions we had with city managers regarding the challenges facing municipal leaders and best practices utilized by thriving cities was very valuable.

We are half way through the fall semester and we are learning the significance of organizational development and the importance of paying attention to the broad picture of the organization. The most invaluable

knowledge we have gained is the know-how to envision and move from vision to plan development to plan implementation in order to obtain the overall results for which the organization is striving to achieve. Operating a strategic human resources department by anticipating issues, using effective processes to handle issues, and being effective in developing policies, procedures, and systems are also things that we have learned. The importance of administrative law has resonated through our course readings and class discussions because city leaders need the ability to interpret law and be able to apply it. Policy and laws are and will continue to affect the day to day operations of all cities. Lastly we will continue to learn how to sustain the communities we will be managing in the future.

Once again I would like to thank you all for your guidance and assistance. I know my classmates and I will be contacting you all throughout the year as we embark on our journey of seeking employment for the next year. Any advice you may have is greatly needed and appreciated as we take the next step towards achieving our goals. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at r.trey@sbcglobal.net.

Faculty Profile

Barbara S. Romzek, Interim Vice Provost and Professor

Barbara S. Romzek (Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin, 1979) is Interim Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Professor of Public Administration at the University of Kansas. Dr. Romzek joined the University of Kansas in 1979 as an assistant professor. Dr. Romzek is recognized nationally as an expert in the area of public management and accountability with particular emphases on government reform, contracting, and network service delivery. She is currently conducting research into patterns of informal accountability among networks of contract service providers. Barbara's research has encompassed variety of complex work settings, including federal agencies such as NASA, Congress, and the U.S. Air Force, as well as state agencies, local governments, and nonprofits. She has published three books and several dozen social science articles. Questions for Professor Romzek? E-mail her at bromzek@ku.edu



DEPARTMENTAL NEWS



Message from the Department Chair Marilu Goodyear

The week students left campus for fall break, having completed the first half of their fall courses and celebrated (so far) a great football season! This fall brings two significant changes to our Department; changes which the research tells us are the most stressful and comprehensive an organization can go through. This week we will leave Blake Hall and move to newly redesigned space for our purposes (for the first time) in Wescoe Hall. We will have a great view of Strong Hall, the seat of power, on campus and also of Wescoe beach, the site of much student activity. If you come to campus, please do come and see us on the 4th floor (Suite 4060) and check out our new digs.

The months of October and November also brings the opportunity to hire three new faculty members. As we have launched our search for new colleagues, it has become clear that our high reputation (we are not only #1 in city management and urban planning, but also ranked #5 overall in public management) provides us with the means to attract the best academic talent in our profession. We are highly optimistic for a very successful recruiting season!

One of the best pieces of news we have to share is the honor that our faculty members have earned in the area of teaching effectiveness. This year Leisha DeHart-Davis won the prestigious Kemper Award for Excellence in Teaching. Professor DeHart-Davis follows Professors Epp and Nalbandian as recent winners of this award. This is a great external validation of what our students have always known; we have great teachers and learners in our Department! I thought it would be appropriate to share with you the seven principles of quality teaching that Professor DeHart-Davis shared with the university community at the Kemper Award Ceremony.

Principle #1: Teach content you love and are passionate about!

Principle #2: Never try to be anyone in the classroom other than yourself.

Principle #3: Teaching is not about you, the instructor, it's about your students and how they engage the material.

Principle #4: Effective teaching will torture your soul and keep you awake at night. If you are not sweating, you may not be teaching;

Principle #5: If you devote your teaching to your students, they will devote their learning right back. KU's excellent public administration students have taught me this.

Principle #6 Choose a life partner, such as my husband Allen Davis, who not only does not mind, but encourages the additional time spent with students;

Principle #7 Gravitate towards colleagues who encourage and appreciate your teaching.

I could not have said it better!

Marilu

Books From the KU Public Administration Faculty

John Nalbandian has co-authored the sixth edition of *Public Personnel Management: Contexts and Strategies*. First published 30 years ago, this is one of the longest running public personnel texts around.

Chuck Epp's book *Making Rights Real* will be published by the University of Chicago Press in November. The book examines the impact of tort liability on city governments in the areas of policing, playground safety, and sexual harassment policy.

OUR NEW OFFICE SUITE



Left, PhD Student Cullen Merritt working in his new office facing Jayhawk Boulevard and Strong Hall
Above, one of the offices facing Budig Hall
Below, the central office space and sitting area



The KU Public Administration Department has officially moved into our new office suite here in Wescoe Hall and it is fabulous!

Please stop by and visit us at 1445 Jayhawk Blvd., 4060 Wescoe Hall, Lawrence, KS 66045 anytime you are in the area!

2009 KUCIMAT Award Winners

KUCIMAT Intern Excellence Award
Trisha Palmer, Lees's Summit, MO

Awarded to Trisha Palmer for performing in an exceptional manner during her internship year with the City of Lee Summit, Missouri, including her excellent leadership on the Lee Summit 360 Strategic Planning Process working with diverse members of the community and fostering involvement and productive dialogue about achieving community goals. The city manager said that "her work will have a positive impact on the City of Lee Summit for the next twenty years."

Edwin O. Stene Award for Managerial Excellence
Eric Levitt, City Manager, Janesville, WI

Awarded to Eric Levitt for his exceptional management in several cities. Eric fosters an environment in which young leaders can thrive, giving them responsibilities and roles which enable them to grow and develop as professionals. He was also praised for his mentorship of students considering careers in local government, many of whom remarked that his enthusiasm and dedication to public service is infectious.

KUCIMAT Lifetime Achievement Award
William A. (Bill) Ramsey

Awarded to Bill Ramsey who through cumulative career achievements and successes furthered the purpose of the KUCIMAT organization. Bill graduated from the KU MPA program in 1975 and has since spent more than 30 years in public service. He is known for his passion for innovation, continuous improvement in service delivery, and customer satisfaction. Moreover, he is known for his dedication to mentoring young professionals. He hired the first part-time university intern and has hired at least 13 interns and mentored countless others throughout his distinguished career.



The 2009 MPA Class gather around the tree they planted in a Lawrence Park to commemorate their year on campus