Program Director’s Message

Fall brings a number of important events for the Local Government Program. On November 1st, we will celebrate the achievements of our new MPA and DPA graduates at our fall convocation and awards reception. November 8th brings the Alumni Society’s annual conference, which has grown into a major event. You will find details inside this newsletter. And on November 21st, alumni of our Toronto DPA program are hosting their own second annual half-day conference, to be held at the Toronto Reference Library.

These events underline the vibrancy and continued growth of our Program. In fall 2012, we launched a new collaborative City of London DPA stream, which admits five City employees per year. In addition, we have recently inaugurated an internship program with the City of London, which provides two internship opportunities each year to current MPA students.

Meanwhile, our established teaching streams continue to prosper. Competition for the MPA was stiff this past spring, with over 100 applicants vying for spots. Our City of Toronto and GTA DPA programs are bringing our courses to a new cohort of talented administrators in the Toronto region.

On the research front, we have launched a Local Governance Seminar Series, supported by the Department of Political Science, which features monthly presentations by Western and visiting speakers that highlight new research in the field. Our faculty members include leading local government scholars in Canada. You’ll find a selection of their new publications highlighted in this newsletter.

Collaboration with China remains important to our Program. Last year, we welcomed two new Chinese students into our MPA through the Chu Scholars initiative. And the Chu Faculty Fellows initiative has sponsored two Chinese academics for year-long research residencies at Western: Professor Ted Zheng of Shandong University (2012-13) and Professor Leo Fan of Nanjing University (2013-14).

I’d like to thank our teaching faculty, staff, alumni, and all those who work hard to make this complex and unique program a success. My best wishes for a great fall to everyone in the LGP community!

- Martin Horak
New Multilevel Governance Publications

Many MPA graduates are somewhat familiar with a big research project based in the Department. It’s about Multilevel Governance and Public Policy in Canadian Municipalities. Led by Bob Young, it has involved Andy Sancton and Martin Horak in research, while Carol Agôcs has served on the advisory committee.

The project has resulted in many publications, such as Spheres of Governance, a comparative study of how cities operate within the intergovernmental systems of eight different countries, and Foundations of Governance, which explored municipal-provincial relations in all 10 provinces.

Much of our research focused on six policy fields – emergency management, federal property, image-building, immigrant settlement, infrastructure, and urban Aboriginal policy. We explored each of these in several provinces, in municipalities of various sizes (which is rare in local-government research). We also investigated these fields in the largest city of each province.

There are new publications. A very notable one is Sites of Governance: Multilevel Governance and Policy Making in Canada’s Big Cities, edited by Martin Horak and Robert Young. This has lots of juicy case studies, and really interesting reflections by Martin in the Conclusion about what is needed for multilevel policy making to work well.

More recent is Image-Building in Canadian Municipalities, edited by Jean Harvey and Young. This is a fascinating policy field, one where there is very little interference from provincial governments (for once), and where larger cities actually have a harder time to generate successful images.

Finally, just out, is Federal Property Policy in Canadian Municipalities, edited by Mike Ircha and Young. This provides very good coverage of an understudied field.

These new books are all available through the McGill-Queen’s University Press website (and they are much cheaper than your MPA texts).

Enjoy!

- Robert Young

A Second Edition

Andy Sancton is currently taking a six-month sabbatical leave until December 31 2013. His main project is preparing a second edition of his textbook Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective, first published by Oxford University Press Canada in 2011. He has drafted a new chapter on municipal policy-making and is updating other chapters to take account of recent developments. Anyone with suggestions, or corrections based on the previous edition, should contact him at asancton@uwo.ca. All alumni e-mails about the book will be gratefully acknowledged.
Cities of Oil: A new book from Tim Cobban

Cities of Oil, published this year by the University of Toronto Press, documents the rise and growth of the early petroleum manufacturing industry in southwestern Ontario. Using previously unexamined archival records, it traces the industry’s developments—from its beginnings at the wellhead in the 1850s to its later expansion in a burgeoning industrial district on the outskirts of London, where Imperial Oil was founded, to Petrolia, the village at the centre of the crude oil producing region, and to Sarnia, where it remained concentrated throughout the first half of the twentieth century and then greatly expanded during and shortly after the Second World War. It accounts for all of its important developments and innovations, and closely examines how municipalities influenced the growth and location of this industry. Throughout, the book also analyses the changing relationship between municipalities, industry, and the Province of Ontario, and concludes with practical policy recommendations for local officials pursuing economic development today.

- Tim Cobban

A New Website with New Features

This Fall the Local Government Program and the Department of Political Science launched their revamped, redesigned, and rebranded websites.

The new website includes many new features. One of the most exciting is the new ability to showcase our MPA graduate student research. Students who have coded their final major research paper as “Public” will have electronic PDF copies of their papers posted on our site. You can find the posted papers at: www.localgovernment.uwo.ca/activities/graduate_papers.html

Be sure to check out the new website today and please give us your feedback so we can continue to make improvements!

Josh Morgan - jmorga8@uwo.ca
Western's Local Government Program Alumni Society is pleased to announce our 2013 Annual Conference. This year’s theme is The Creative Spark - Public Service Innovation. Our keynote speaker will be TTC Chair and Toronto City Councillor, Karen Stintz, BA’92, Dip’93.

The conference kicks off the evening of Thursday Nov. 7 with Cocktails and Conversations. Friday, Nov 8th is the main conference day with an agenda full of great speakers, conversations, networking and fun. Tickets are now available, hope to see you there!

Purchase tickets here: [http://www.localgovernment.uwo.ca/people/alumni/annual_conference/index.html](http://www.localgovernment.uwo.ca/people/alumni/annual_conference/index.html)

CONFERENCE DAY AGENDA—November 8, 2013:

8:00 a.m. - Registration & hot buffet breakfast
8:45 a.m. - Opening Remarks
9:00 a.m. - Gord Hume: Trends for Creative Communities
9:45 a.m. - Kate Graham, BA’07, MPA’08: The Coming of Age for Municipalities
10:15 a.m. - Coffee Break
10:30 a.m. - Keynote Speaker: Karen Stintz, BA’92, Dip’93, TTC
11:30 a.m. - Susanna Hubbard, MPA’87 and Josh Morgan, BA’02, MA’04: Creative Engagement and Library Spaces, London Public Library
12:00 p.m. - Networking Lunch
1:00 p.m. - AGM and Award Presentation
1:30 p.m. - Innovation at Work: Speakers Panel Dan Mathieson, MPA’08, getting creative with data infrastructure in Stratford; Kristina Verner, Intelligent Communities for Waterfront Toronto; and Bill Mann, MPA’10, Town of Milton
3:00 p.m. - Dr. Martin Horak’s Local Government Program Update
3:10 p.m. - Dr. Andrew Sancton’s Recommended Reading List
3:20 p.m. - Wrap Up: Susan Gardner BA’99, MPA’06, Municipal World
3:30 p.m. - Closing Remarks

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