



PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

News & Views

Academic Medals In Public Administration

The practice of recognizing top graduates of the Local Government Program began with a generous gesture from Ron Farrow. During his many years with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Ron Farrow played a leading role in providing support for the Local Government Program and for the establishment of the MPA. Ron also taught in the Department of Political Science for many years. Upon his retirement from the Ministry Ron asked that funds raised for a retirement gift be used to fund an award for the MPA student with the highest average marks.

For a number of years the Ron Farrow Award was presented annually by the Department of Political Science and the Local Government Program to the MPA student with the highest average marks. Even Ron's colleagues weren't flush enough to permanently endow the award.

So, in 2003, it was decided to change the award from cash to an Academic Medal in Public Administration and to broaden the number of awards to reflect achievement in the Western Campus and City of Toronto DPA programs as well as the part-time and full-time streams of MPA students. There are now three Academic Medals in public administration which are listed below along with the names of the students who have received them:

Allan O'Brien Academic Medal in Public Administration for the graduating part-time MPA student with the highest academic standing.

- 2003: Doug Carr
- 2004: Ross Fair
- 2005: Kandy Webb
- 2006: Sandra Datares Bere
- 2007: Dan Chapman

Academic Medal in Public Administration for the graduating full-time MPA student with the highest academic standing.

- 2003: Erin Murphy
- 2004: Will Jacques
- 2005: Sophie Skaith
- 2006: Holly Cornies
- 2007: Beverly Kerby

Ron Farrow Academic Medal in Public Administration for the graduating Western DPA graduate with the highest academic standing.

- 2003: Scott Blandford
- 2004: Joe Taylor
- 2005: Kathryn Rogers
- 2006: John Skorobohacz
- 2007: Ruth Coursey

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Letter from the Director

One of our students who walks across the stage in Alumni Hall on October 19 to receive his or her degree will be the 300th MPA graduate since the program began in the early 1990s. Western's MPA has survived and prospered. Rarely has its future looked brighter.

One of the challenges in recent years has been recruiting well-qualified full-time students. Until this year we have been unable to grant scholarships to full-time MPA students, a common practice among our competitors. Starting in 2007, Western's policy on this matter has changed. All our new domestic full-time students this year have qualified for a scholarship that pays most of their tuition fees. It is surely no coincidence that our full-time MPA intake this year is at capacity: 15. Many of these students are exceptionally well-qualified.

Another problem has been obtaining appropriate post-MPA jobs for full-time MPA graduates. Starting this year our graduates have been eligible to obtain positions in the Municipal Management Internship Program, administered by the Association of Municipal Managers Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) with funds from the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario (FedNor). Kyle Pratt (MPA 2007) is now with Hastings County and Jessica Weel (MPA 2007) is with the the City of Thunder Bay. We expect our graduates to qualify for more of these positions in the future.

Interest in the part-time MPA remains strong. We have 16 incoming part-time students, so all our slots are filled. We do not want MPA classes with more than 30 students, although a few will be above that number in 2007-08.



Josh Morgan, our Recruitment and Development Coordinator, has made great strides in adapting our website to better serve both potential students and part-timers who have already started. In June, while both DPA and MPA classes were in session, Josh organized innovative orientation and social events that included both full-time and part-time MPA students scheduled to start in September.

Andy Sancton,
Director, Local Government Program

News And Views is a publication of the Local Government Program, Department of Political Science, University of Western Ontario and of the Local Government Program Alumni Association. To contact News and Views:

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Internship Opportunities



Last fall, the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing launched their municipal internship program. The program pairs recent graduates with municipalities across the province. The program was developed as an effort to attract young graduate students to municipal work and as a practical succession planning tool. Most of the interns have educational backgrounds in public administration or policy. The interns gain valuable experience from each department and mentors. The curriculum requires that interns move from department to department during a one year period. The result is several quick learning experiences, which provide a broad understanding of all areas in local government. This internship is a great "next step" for recent full-time Local Government program graduates. This year, Western has two students involved in the program. Jessie Weel and Kyle Pratt have provided some insight into their experiences to date.



Jessie Weel:

I started my placement with the City of Thunder Bay on the 9th of July. To date, I have worked in the corporate services department, which includes the clerk's office. Throughout the internship I will attend all council and senior management meetings, which provide a close look at management's responsibilities. Currently, I am working on developing a more robust notice by-law, up-dating the policy manual and assisting the CAO with small projects.

Over the next year I will experience work in almost all departments of the City of Thunder Bay and a month with the municipal services office. The year promises to be an exciting mixture of challenges and opportunities, which should complement the MPA program very well.



Kyle Pratt:

Currently, I have spent a month in the Finance Department developing a Risk Management Policy for the County of Hastings. During

this time, I have been attending Finance Committees, Request for Proposal meetings, Hastings County Clerk and Treasurers Association Meetings, Council Meetings, and General Conferences.

In the months following I will find myself in the Human Resources department, CAO and Clerks Office, Municipal Affairs and Housing Placement, Planning and Development Department, Protective Services, and Social Services, amongst many more municipal administration function.

The Municipal Internship Program has been exactly what I expected. It allows me to apply my educational knowledge learned in the MPA-Local Government Program to real life experience. In participating in the Municipal Internship Program I have learned a wealth of knowledge and gained a wide range of experience that can not be provided in a classroom setting.

More information on the internships can be found at:
www.amcto.com/Internship/home.asp

New Local Government Program Website

www.localgovernment.uwo.ca

Over the past few months I have been working to build a new and improved website that is easier to navigate. Please take a moment to check it out all the new sections and features and let me know what you think.

Josh Morgan

Recruitment and Development Officer

A Message from the Alumni Society President

Our annual conference is approaching in November and once again, our highly energetic and innovative Conference Committee is planning an informative and engaging lineup of sessions, under the leadership of Cathy Cuyllé and Lee Anne Doyle. Watch for more information about the conference, available soon on the Local Government Program web site. As one of Western's most active and connected alumni group, this conference is a signature event for the organization, providing a great opportunity to reconnect with classmates, meet new faces, and advance our networks!

I am also pleased to report on the tremendous success of our inaugural Spring alumni event, an evening in Toronto with John Lorinc, author of "The New City" and Professor Andrew Sancton. Many thanks to John Ballantine and Karen Gautam for their leadership in organizing and hosting this event at the Fiddler's Green Pub in June. Close to 30 alumni and friends attended.

Congratulations also to Karen who is a new mom and somehow managed to fit this into her busy schedule.

We look forward to seeing you again at the conference on Friday, November 23rd at the London Convention Centre.

Best regards,
Carol-Lynn Chambers, MPA '01

Borderless Municipal Worlds

Local Government Alumni Society 2007 Annual Conference

Universal issues such as economic trade, immigration, and environmental issues are forcing today's municipal governments to look beyond their own boundaries to compete in the international marketplace. Join us to learn how Canadian municipalities are succeeding on a global stage.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Michael J. MacDonald
Details at www.localgovernment.uwo.ca/alumni

Friday, November 23, 2007

London Convention Centre

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Refreshments, Buffet Lunch and Post-Conference Reception Included

As a gathering of students, faculty, alumni and municipal administrators and academics from across the province, the Alumni Conference provides a valuable opportunity to expand your network of municipal contacts and meet with prospective employers.

The Local Government Program Alumni Conference is still one of the most affordable professional conference experience. Registration costs for comparable conferences are normally between three to five times greater.

Your ideas and perspectives are welcome! The conference format emphasizes lively, interactive seminars and panel discussions with plenty of dialogue.

Registration

To register, complete the registration form and return by fax or mail. Take advantage of early bird rates by registering before October 26, 2007!

For more information regarding the conference please contact:

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Notice: 2007 Alumni Society AGM

The Local Government Program Alumni Society AGM will be held on November 23rd at the London Convention Centre as part of the 2007 Annual Conference.

5.09 Annual General Meetings:

At least once per year the Executive will call a general meeting for the purpose of electing officers, passing resolutions and amendments to the Constitution. Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given to all members of the Alumni Society at least 14 days prior to the date on which the meeting is to be held. Notice shall be made by mail, through the Alumni Society newsletter, and/or through advertisements in periodicals that the Executive deems appropriate. A minimum of 10 regular members in attendance shall constitute a quorum.