

Qué PASA?

September 21, 2009

Volume 1, Issue 3



Board Members

- Jonathan Becks, Chair
- Jessica Mitton, Co-Chair
- Bethany Bernard, Secretary
- John Heroff, Treasurer
- Jeanne Chiu, Service Chair
- Mattie Whipple, New Student Chair
- Dean Constantinou, Professional Development Chair

Contact us:

Email:
uicpasa@gmail.com

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5088541686

Web:
sites.google.com/site/uicpasa

Blog:
<http://uicpasa.blogspot.com>

Collegiate Link:
uic.collegiatelink.net/Community?action=getMyHome

A Fresh Perspective

By Monica Mayur

It's hard to believe that I am almost one-fourth done with my graduate school experience, especially since I remember orientation so clearly. We were all so nervous and shy; unsure of what to expect as we started our journey at CUPPA. Now a few months in, I can see that I had nothing to feel apprehensive about.

The program is just how the second year students described it would be – challenging, stimulating and useful. Even though I've just started, I have already experienced the applicability of MPA courses to my internship at the Illinois Department of Revenue. I was dreading having to learn SPSS in Data Analysis, only until the first day of work when my supervisor notified me it was something I would be using regularly (so thanks Professor Wu!)

Of course, graduate school is not only an academic venture; it is an experience in itself.

Having friends to share the journey with is a blessing. All of my friendships in Chicago have been made through the program. And I encourage everyone to take the extra effort to attend a PASA meeting, a social or just smile at the person next to you in class. We are all going through this process, so why not enjoy the journey together? Not only will you have people push you to study when all you want to do is watch *Desperate Housewives*, but you'll also make life-long friends. And in a profession where it is often important "who you know" to land the job you desire; networking is key. I look forward to seeing you all at a PASA meeting or in classes next semester. (Please say hi...I love meeting new people!) Most importantly, I hope that your first semester has been as exciting and eventful as mine!

November 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 11/3 PASA Meeting 5:00	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 11/18 PASA Meeting 5:00	19	20 11/20 PASA Social TBD	21
22	23	24	25	26-27 Thanksgiving Break!	28	
29	30					

Internship Panel Recap by John Heroff

On Friday October 9th PASA held a panel for students on how to land a good internship. Panel members brought a wide range of experiences. Despite the cold and rainy weather, the event was well attended with over 15 students attending the panel. Students seeking internships were encouraged to look beyond government agencies. Danielle Barnes discussed her internship with the Woodstock Institute, a public policy and advocacy non-profit that focuses on bringing investment and redevelopment to low-income communities. Mattie Whipple reminded students that not all internships need be in governments or non-profits, as she found a very rewarding and exciting internship with the D.C. law firm of Olsson, Frank and Weeda. Ms. Whipple put her skills acquired in the MPA program tracking federal health care legislation.

Several classes in the MPA program were mentioned as being particularly helpful to understanding how the organizations the panel members interned in operated. Ms. Barnes and Mr. Colon mentioned that the Introduction to Public Administration and Public Organization Theory classes provided greater understanding of the broad dynamics of the places they interned. The Project Management and GIS courses were also highly recommended. When asked what skills employers are looking for, panel members stressed learning computer skills that often get overlooked in higher education. Even though there are no required courses in basic computer software, a solid working knowledge of Microsoft Office is essential to success in the workplace. Students who want to enhance their computer knowledge were

urged to check out the resources available on-campus, such as tutorials available on Lynda.com through Daley Library.

Panel members encouraged those students who really want a paid internship to begin looking this semester for internships in the summer as competition is intense. The panel discussed the pros and cons of taking internships without pay; while all students would like to have paid internships, Ms. Whipple pointed out that "in this economy you have to be realistic." Students taking unpaid internships were encouraged to be upfront about what they want to learn from their time. Contact Dean Constantino for more information about the internship panel and professional development opportunities offered through PASA.

Greater Chicago Chapter of ASPA Kickoff by Ken Woodhouse

On October 8th, the Greater Chicago Chapter of ASPA hosted its fall program, "Stimulating the Stimulus: Recovery in Illinois," at the Metropolitan Planning Council in downtown Chicago. The program focused on how the federal stimulus dollars are being put to work in the Chicago region. Three guest speakers addressed the topic from their respective perspectives: Jason Tyszko, policy advisor to the governor, State of Illinois; Dr. Charles Hoch, urban planning and policy professor at UIC and a member of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) multi-year evalua-

tion project for city and state implementation; and Peter Skosey, vice president, Metropolitan Planning Council.

Audience members included students, practitioners, and academics in public administration. With nearly 60 guests and participants, this was one of the chapter's most well attended programs in recent history and an excellent way to kickoff the year's series of programs. Below is a tentative schedule of programs and events for this year. Pay attention for further updates!

- Thursday, December 10, 2009: Serve America Act (lunch program)

- Thursday, February 11, 2010: Budgeting During Times of Fiscal Stress (joint ASPA-PASA-IGFOA luncheon program)
- Thursday, April 8, 2010: Employment Outlook 2010 (luncheon program)
- Friday, May 7, 2010: ASPA Awards Ceremony

For more information on ASPA, including how to get involved, visit www.aspanet.org or contact Ken Woodhouse at woodhous@uic.edu.