

resources that can sustain communities during economic stress. Orange County's assistant manager, Gwen Harvey, reports, "The meeting was an excellent opportunity to bring our nonprofit partners together for focused dialogue on increasing positive outcomes for the community. Everyone appreciated the flow of ideas with a clear-eyed view of challenges we face."

Communities that are interested in holding such a problem-solving discussion are invited to contact School staff members Lydian Altman, 919.962.0103 or lydian@sog.unc.edu, or Margaret Henderson, 919.966.3455 or margaret@sog.unc.edu. Their work on strengthening nonprofit-government relations is available through the Public Intersection Project, www.publicintersection.unc.edu.

## Clerks' Institute Marks Thirty Years

The School of Government's 2008 Clerks' Certification Institute, held in February, June, and October, helped forty municipal and county clerks and other local officials progress toward professional certification from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). This year's institute was the first in which class examinations were completed entirely online. Other class assignments also used Internet technology.

Since 1979, more than five hundred city and county clerks and council of government secretaries and their deputies have made use of the institute to fulfill a major part of the clerks' certification requirements of the IIMC. IIMC is a professional organization of about ten thousand clerks in the United States, Canada, and other countries.

Many class members receive scholarships from the Local Government Federal Credit Union, the North Carolina Association of Municipal Clerks, and the School of Government to help defray the cost of attending the three-week program.

## at the School



## School Faculty Train 82nd Airborne Division in Local Government

As part of a new military strategy in Iraq, 3,200 members of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, from Fort Bragg deployed to Baghdad in November 2008 with responsibility not only for military and security matters, but also for leadership and assistance to Baghdad officials in helping stabilize the local government. In October, before the brigade deployed, faculty members A. Fleming Bell, II, Norma Houston, Robert P. Joyce, Jonathan Q. Morgan, and Ricardo S. Morse, along with Civic Education Consortium Director Kelley T. O'Brien, traveled to Fort Bragg to help prepare one hundred officers at the rank of captain and above for the mission. The School's team offered a day and a half of training in basic local government organization and functions, community and economic development, ethics and board proceedings, open

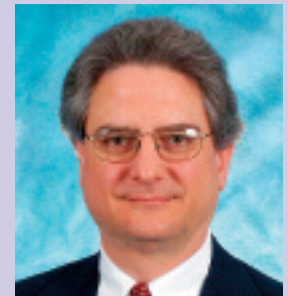
meetings and public records, community engagement, civic engagement of youth, elections, and emergency management. Joyce, a long-time faculty member, cannot remember another time when the organization conducted training for troops about to be deployed.



A. Fleming Bell, II



Norma Houston



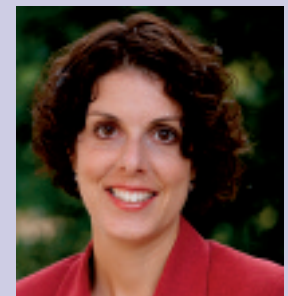
Robert P. Joyce



Jonathan Q. Morgan



Ricardo S. Morse



Kelly T. O'Brien

## Hunt and Joyner Honored



Top, Joseph E. Hunt and IAAO President Guy Griscom; bottom, Kenneth L. Joyner and Griscom.

In September 2008 the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO), the international professional association in property appraisal, assessment administration, and property tax policy, honored School faculty members Joseph E. Hunt and Kenneth L. Joyner, lecturers in public finance and government.

Hunt, who joined the faculty in 1983, received the IAAO's 2008 Presidential Citation. The award recognized his leadership in the course of his career and "his significant involvement in the Association, which has furthered the realization of the mission of IAAO."

Joyner, who joined the faculty in 2008, received IAAO's Member of the Year Award.

In November 2008, at the annual conference of the North Carolina Asso-

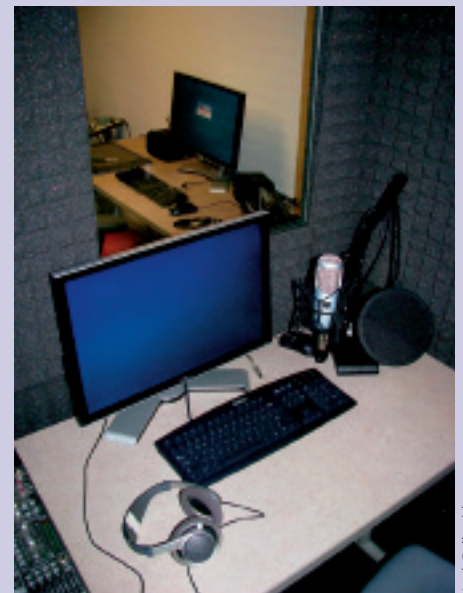
ciation of Assessing Officers (NCAAO) in Greensboro, Hunt received two additional honors: the Old North State Award, established by Governor Mike Easley for outstanding North Carolinians who have "a proven record of exemplary service and commitment to the state and their community," and a renaming by the NCAAO of its Distinguished Jurisdiction Award as the Joseph E. Hunt Distinguished Jurisdiction Award.

## Media Design Studio Increases Teaching and Learning Options

The completion of a media design studio at the School offers faculty new ways to expand teaching and learning opportunities. Funding to construct and equip the studio was provided by the Knapp Foundation of St. Michaels, Maryland, and many individual donors across the state.

The studio houses numerous multimedia-development tools,

including a sound booth that makes it possible to produce high-quality audio recordings and to combine audio with learning tools such as PowerPoint and video for use in class or over the Web. According to Joel Galbraith, instructional analyst and studio manager, "Staff and faculty can use the studio equipment alone or with help to record and edit audio and video into fully produced multimedia products such as webinars, audio CDs, and DVDs. Recordings can be made in the studio,



Right, inside the recording booth looking out to the studio; below, the recording booth and studio equipment.



Joel Galbraith

in the classroom, and in other locations as needed.”

In fall 2008 the Teaching and Learning Support team, working with several faculty members, used studio equipment to develop distance-learning materials for areas such as mental health services and indigent defense services.

“Online training for local mental health boards evolved as part of a project with the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services,” said Associate Professor Mark Botts, who directed the project. “The division requested that a live regional training session be recorded for members who could not attend, as well as for future board members and directors, county commissioners, and consumer and family advisory committee members who work with the local mental health boards.

“Recording a regional session would have required trying to make ten hours of live audience presentation interesting and useful for individuals who would be viewing from their homes or offices,” Botts explained.

“The School’s new media studio and Teaching and Learning Support team made it possible to pursue a better approach by designing and producing five Web-based instructional modules that include visuals, narration, and interactive learning activities.”

Meredith Murray, program manager for the School’s Indigent Defense Education (IDE) group, says that their program had a similar experience.

According to Murray, “Many North Carolina indigent defenders are unable to attend training in person because of a number of factors. Our programs typically contain timely and essential information for indigent defenders, so it is important to be able to disseminate programs beyond our classrooms on a reasonably fast timeline.” To serve the defenders better, IDE faculty initiated an online presentation project led by defender educator Alyson Grine.

Like the mental health group, the IDE group used recorded narration synchronized with a PowerPoint presentation that is accessible over the Internet to participants at any time convenient for them. Students can view the entire presentation or use an included index to select certain parts of a lecture.

By increasing its capability to produce good-quality online and distance training, the School will supplement and enhance its educational programs in ways that are effective—and cost-effective—for local government officials and others who increasingly encounter time or financial limitations on obtaining important professional continuing education.

To access the mental health materials, go to [www.sog.unc.edu/programs/mentalhealth/](http://www.sog.unc.edu/programs/mentalhealth/). For more information, see “New Online Resource Available for LME Board Members,” page 3. To access the indigent defense education materials, go to [www.indigentdefense.unc.edu](http://www.indigentdefense.unc.edu), and click on Online Training.

## Registers of Deeds Honor Szypszak

The North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds honored Associate Professor Charles A. “Chuck” Szypszak in September 2008 with a Special Recognition Award. Presented at the association’s annual conference, the award was given for Szypszak’s “loyal dedication and unwavering commitment to the organization.” His work at the School of Government draws on his



*Chuck Szypszak*

expertise in real estate law, the work of registers of deeds, eminent domain, and property mapping.

Brenda Bell, Iredell County regi-

ster of deeds and chair of the Special Recognition Awards Committee, said, “When Chuck joined the School of Government in 2005, he came on board full force to assist North Carolina registers. When you’re in a bind and need immediate advice, he is a good person to have on the other end of the phone. It has been important for us to have someone with his qualifications and capabilities.”

## Wicker Scholarship Available for First-Year Student Entering UNC at Chapel Hill in 2009

If you are a local government employee with a high school senior who has been accepted for next year by UNC at Chapel Hill, encourage him or her to apply for the Warren Jake Wicker Scholarship.

Each spring the UNC at Chapel Hill Office of Scholarships seeks first-year undergraduate applicants for this \$1,000 scholarship.

The student must have at least one parent who has been continuously employed full-time by a North Carolina city or county government for at least five years before January 1, 2009. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of relative financial need and academic promise.

To apply, send a letter of application to Wicker Scholarship, UNC at Chapel Hill Office of Student Aid, P.O. Box 1080, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. For additional information or to e-mail a letter of application, contact Torie Davis at [torie\\_davis@unc.edu](mailto:torie_davis@unc.edu) or 919.843.1619.

The application must be received on or before April 1, 2009.