

In Memoriam

During summer 2003 two people with special histories at the Institute of Government died. We are saddened by their loss but heartened by knowing that the work they began on behalf of public officials throughout North Carolina continues today as strongly as ever.

Warren Jake Wicker

Known and admired as much for his jokes, proverbs, and personal warmth as for his expertise in matters of local governance, former Gladys Hall Coates Professor of Public Law and Government Warren Jake Wicker died on June 25, 2003, after a long and spirited battle with cancer.

Throughout his forty-eight-year career as a faculty member, Wicker provided training, guidance, mentorship, and inspiration for nearly every group of public officials that the Institute



serves. Although he officially retired in 1991, he continued to work as a term professor for the next twelve years with the same responsiveness and dedication that he had shown before retirement.

On October 19, 2002, during the dedication of a classroom at the School

of Government named in Wicker's honor, Dean Michael R. Smith said, "Jake has been more than a teacher for local officials—he also has been a model and a mentor for countless Institute faculty members . . . Those of us who have spent time in Jake's orbit have been very lucky. We have learned that our work is not about us. It is about serving others. In a statement about the Institute's mission that Jake wrote in 1962, he said, 'A state university . . . has a responsibility to exercise leadership in bringing a better life to the people of the whole state.' Jake has practiced what he has preached."

A native of Lee County, Wicker joined the Institute faculty in 1955 and was the first recipient of the Gladys Hall Coates Professorship. From 1957 to 1991, he served as director of the Institute's flagship Municipal Administration Course, instituting and directing a companion course for county officials beginning in the early 1960s. Wicker also created and taught up to fifteen

Consortium Offers Leg Up on Information Technology

According to a 2001 survey, only 21 percent of North Carolina's poorest municipalities have an official website, and only 3 percent have transactional web-based applications. Further, more than half of the state's 100 counties have no strategic plan for instructional technology.

In response to this critical need, the UNC School of Government's Center for Public Technology, the North Carolina Rural Center, the North Carolina League of Municipalities, and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners have created the Local E-Government Utilization Project (LEG-UP). The

project is supported by funding from the Rural Internet Access Authority and the U.S. Department of Commerce.

LEG-UP is designed to bring e-government to all counties and municipalities in the state. "E-government" consists of new channels of communication and new methods for participation between governments, citizens, employees, and businesses, all intended to exploit the potential of information technology fully.

LEG-UP will develop and test web-based information technology business-case tools that can assist government managers in selecting and implementing new information technology to improve service delivery.

Current funding enables the LEG-UP partners to train fifty-five local governments and assist with some start-up expenses.

The first phase of LEG-UP, currently under way, included a two-day seminar on May 7–8, 2003. Additional training is scheduled for spring 2004. Training sessions for LEG-UP partners are open to other local governments on a first-come, first-served basis.

For additional information about LEG-UP, contact Kevin FitzGerald at kfitz@iogmail.iog.unc.edu or (919) 962-4301, or Shannon Schelin at schelin@iogmail.iog.unc.edu or (919) 962-5438.

courses annually in public purchasing and contracting and created a statewide certification program for purchasing officials. During his career he became known and widely respected as a local government “generalist,” a term reflective of the variety of substantive areas that he worked in and mastered: incorporation of new towns, annexation, water and sewer organization and finance, personnel administration, and city-county consolidation.

Wicker is survived by his wife, Peachee, and three children. At the family’s request, memorial contributions to honor Wicker may be made to the Institute of Government Foundation, CB# 3330 Knapp Building, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3330, or to the Jake Wicker Scholarship—UNC Chapel Hill, c/o Ms. Marisa Sears, UNC Development Office, P.O. Box 309, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-0309.



Philip P. Green, Jr.

Philip P. Green, Jr., an Institute faculty member from 1949 to 1988, died on August 9, 2003. Green was a well-known authority on planning and zoning law and was the first faculty member at the Institute to be named an Albert Coates Professor of Public Law and Government.

A graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School, Green is remembered by many as a legend in the profession of city and regional planning

in North Carolina. His devotion to public service and to the people who work in planning and zoning was evident in everything he did during a career spanning almost forty years. A prolific writer, Green authored 139 books and monographs, 84 magazine articles, and numerous bulletins during his years on the faculty. He also drafted more than 100 bills enacted by the General Assembly, including the State Stream Sanitation Act, the Surface Mining Act, laws relating to the State Building Code, basic municipal and county laws concerning planning and land use regulation, and the Coastal Area Management Act. On more than a few occasions, his colleagues and clients referred to him as the “father of North Carolina zoning.”

In the course of his career, Green taught in more than 600 short courses, programs, and conferences for state and local officials, but perhaps his largest contribution was the counsel and support that he provided to thousands of planners, local government attorneys, planning and governing board members, and code-enforcement officials. “In the days before listservs, e-mail, or even computers, when being a planner truly put one on the frontier and there were relatively few sources of help, Phil Green was the hub of the wheel,” said Rich Ducker, a current School of Government faculty member who served with Green.

Before Green retired, the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association presented him with its Distinguished Service Award, and the award now is named in his honor. He received additional honors for his work from the North Carolina Association of Zoning Officials, the North Carolina Municipal Attorneys’ Association, and the North Carolina Building Inspectors’ Association.

Green is survived by his wife, Barbara, of Chapel Hill. He was married for many years to Mary M. Green (now deceased) and is survived by four children from that marriage. At the family’s request, contributions in memory of Green may be made to the Institute of Government Foundation, CB# 3330 Knapp Building, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3330.

Survey Reveals Impact of Budget Cutting

According to a spring 2003 survey conducted by certified public accounting and consulting firm Crisp Hughes Evans LLP, budget shortfalls due to recent state funding cuts are hitting local entities hard. Two-thirds of the survey’s respondents (67 percent) rated shortfalls as a high concern. Another quarter (27 percent) were moderately concerned.

The survey targeted managers and finance officers of North Carolina counties, municipalities, and school districts.

Most of the respondents (86 percent) also were at least moderately concerned about the escalating cost of operations. Of those, 36 percent were highly concerned.

Further, more than half (54 percent) were at least moderately concerned about inadequate or ineffective technology.

The most common revenue sources being created or explored by local finance officers are increased sales taxes, grants, and fees for water, sewer, stormwater, and solid waste services.

There was a 21 percent response rate to the survey, with 291 of 1,363 managers and finance officers providing data.

To order the summary report of the 2003 Governmental Finance Survey, contact Kristi Neal at kneal@che-llp.com, or visit the governmental industry page on Crisp Hughes Evans’s website at www.che-llp.com/website.nsf/lookup/governmental.

Journal