



**Greetings from Suncoast
Chapter President
Gil Machin**



I would like the membership to know that this is your organization. I have simply been provided this opportunity to facilitate the needs of the organization and its membership. Your comments, suggestions, and recommendations are always appreciated and encouraged. If you're interested in getting more involved in the Chapter, consider this an invitation to become a member of one of our committees. Also, do encourage your colleagues to attend the Chapter's events. I am certain that once they attend and meet the membership, they will sincerely consider becoming a Chapter member.

Thank you for being a part of the Suncoast ASPA Chapter. I look forward to meeting and working with each one of you this year as we continue our mission to strengthen the Suncoast Chapter as a primary source of professional knowledge and information for the region.

Accomplishing Mighty Things . . .

Russel Romanella, Director of International Space Station and Spacecraft Processing, NASA, was the featured speaker at the Chapter's Annual Awards event. He reminded us that great countries do great things - and we are a great country and Space Exploration is a great thing we do - not just to answer some of the most basic questions that have existed since the dawn of humankind (is there life in the universe, how did we come to be, how was the universe formed?) but also it serves and is an inspiration to our society. It ingrains in all of us the ability to accomplish mighty things (if we can land a man on the moon than why can't we), and it inspires the next generation of scientists and engineers to become scientists and engineers.



Happenings!

2009 Annual Awards Luncheon

The Suncoast Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration held its the Annual Awards Luncheon Banquet in conjunction with the USF MPA Pi Alpha Alpha honor chapter inductions on May 9, 2009, on the USF Tampa Campus. The following students were inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha:

Lori Jolene de la Gardelle—is the Program Coordinator of Prevention Services with DACCO.

Samar Hennawi—is a native of Damascus, Syria, she will pursue a Ph.D. in public affairs/administration.

Jennifer Dawn Huff—is Senior Chemist for Microbiology in the Pinellas County Utilities Department.

Charles E. Jackson, III—is the McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Program Manager with the Florida Education Fund.

Laura M. Jones—is a Senior Planner and Director of Planning for the City of Minneola.

Mariana V. Llanso—is the General Manager for Service and Program Improvements in the Hillsborough County Public Works Department.

James Brannon Sheely—is employed by the State of Florida

Ramona Sirianni—is the Assistant City Attorney for the City of Lakeland.

Javier A. Vargas—is a native of Peru and is the Utilities General Manager with the City of Sarasota Public Works Department.

Cynthia R. Wolf—is Director of Systems Applications for Polk County Public School system.



Welcome. We invite you to enter into the dynamic world of information, challenges and people that make ASPA what it is today. When you join the American Society for Public Administration, you become part of the time-tested heart of the world of public service. Since 1939, we have been the nation's most respected society representing all forums in the public service arena. **We are ASPA!** We believe that by embracing new ideas - addressing key public service issues - and promoting change at both the local and international levels, we can enhance the quality of lives worldwide.

We are advocates for greater effectiveness in government - agents of goodwill and professionalism - publishers of democratic journalism at its very best - purveyors of progressive theory and practice and providers of global citizenship.

Happenings!

2009 Annual Awards Luncheon USF MPA Pi Alpha Alpha Inductees & Faculty



“There is no such thing as a self-made man or woman. Never was, never will be. We are all, as were those in whose footsteps we follow, shaped by the influence and examples of countless others—parents, grandparents, friends, rivals. And by those who wrote the music that moves us to our souls, those whose performance on stage or on the playing field took our breaths away, those who wrote the great charters which are the bedrock of our system of self-government. And so many who, to our benefit, struggled and suffered through times of trouble and grave uncertainty. And by teachers . . . I want to stress as emphatically as I can the immeasurable importance of our teachers.”

—*David McCullough, Historian, commencement address at the U. of Oklahoma, 2009*

How do I join ASPA?

You can become a member of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) by completing a membership application form. There are several ways of getting the application

[JOIN ASPA TODAY!](#)

[Click here](#) to download a member application (in PDF format).

Email: Mariana Llanso llansom@hillsboroughcounty.org

Call Mariana at 813-307-1817 or

Call ASPA Headquarters at 202-393-7878, FAX 202-638-4952 or

write to: ASPA, 1120 G Street NW, Suite 700

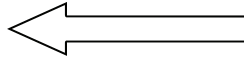
Washington, DC 20005-3885

Happenings!

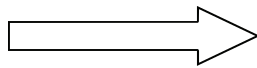
Award Winners!



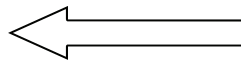
Barbara Van Cott Fidler is named to the Chapter Hall of Fame!



Manus O'Donnell, Assistant County Administrator, Hillsborough County receives the Picot B. Floyd Public Service Leadership Award



Jim Rolston, Director of the Pinellas County Utilities FOG Program receives the Public Management Innovation Award



Happenings!

Hillsborough County Hosts German Students

Matthias Konstanzer, a 22 year old student at the Fachhochschule Kehl - University of Applied Sciences in Kehl, Germany, arrived May 29th and began his work experience with Mike Merrill on June 1st. Matthias other stops include Procurement Services, Solid Waste, Water Resource Services, Debt Management, and the Clerks Office-Finance Section. Matt is excited about the opportunity to learn about Hillsborough County government. His father is Fritz Konstanzer, retired mayor of Bötzingen. Matt enjoys playing handball in a club, playing the piano, and viniculture—growing and tending to grapes.



Stephanie Betz is also 22 who states “I am in the second year of a four-year course of studies. In my first year I worked in the administrative sector in Dornstetten, a German town, where I also gained considerable practical working experience. The importance of international mobility for students is becoming more and more emphasized and I am very eager to gain practical experience by working abroad. This will not only help to improve prospects for my future professional career, but will allow me to learn more about the USA and its culture.”

Katja Dingl is interested in working in the Social Sector to see how it is organized in the USA. I would like to work at the youth welfare office. Katja and Stephanie have been assigned to Tom Papin’s office and will gain experience at Children’s Services.



Fachhochschule Kehl - University of Applied Sciences provides training and preparation for a career in administration. The University trains experts suitable for civil service and management positions in the public sector of Baden-Württemberg. Graduates are mostly employed by local authorities, but also by the state administration, as well as by other organisations in the public sector. As civil servants or public employees, they assume those functions at the middle-management level of administration, but also have the prospect of being promoted to upper management.

Happenings!

Names & Faces!

Do you know who these faces belong to?



See next page for names.

Happenings!

Jobs & Member Activities

Don Menzel was a featured speaker at the National Conference on Good Governance in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, May 26, 2009. He spoke about “In Pursuit of Ethical Governance.” His comments are available online at <http://www.ethicsmgt.com/documents/> They will also be published in the summer 2009 issue of *The Public Manager*.

City Administrator – City of Valparaiso. (pop. 6,537) A city administrator position is open for the City of Valparaiso. Applicants should be motivated, astute and knowledgeable of municipal government and be capable of municipal planning and the preparation of grants, ordinances and special studies. Applicants must possess a public administration degree from an accredited college or equivalent experience. Salary range: \$40,000 - \$55,000 DOQ. Applicants must pass a background search, and public interview. Résumés are open to the public. Send résumé with three personal references by 5:00 p.m. on June 19, 2009, to City of Valparaiso, Attn: City Clerk, 465 Valparaiso Parkway, Valparaiso, FL 32580. For more information, call (850) 729-5402. Résumé will not be accepted by e-mail. Drug-Free Workplace/EOE.

Faces & Names—Suncoast Board Members!

Top row: Mariana V. Llanso, Christine Trovato, Cheryl Arends
Middle: Meagan Decker, Susan Walker, Meena Chary
Bottom: Steven Concepcion, Robin Gomez, Al Coleman
Bottom/bottom: Tampadon

Assistant to City Manager – City of Dunedin. (pop. 37,000) Salary: \$52,122 - \$75,577. Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with course work in public administration, business administration or a closely related field required. Master’s degree preferred.

Provide professional, administrative and analytical support to city manager; provide written/verbal reports to manager regarding significant issues pertaining to city departments; review reports and correspondence submitted by departments to city manager and determine/initiate appropriate action/response; inform city manager of overall organizational challenges and their status; present possible solutions to challenges/problems; communicate directly with department managers; receive feedback and assist departments in understanding goals and vision of City Commission and manager; identify federal, state and local grant opportunities in support of city operations and projects; respond to queries from City Commission and citizens in professional, timely manner. Position is open until filled. Submit résumé and application to: City of Dunedin, Human Resources, 750 Milwaukee Avenue, Dunedin, FL 34698 or send an e-mail to hraplications@dunedinfl.net.

Happenings!

Meet Suncoast Board Member Cheryl Arends!

I am a Senior Budget Analyst for the Management and Budget Department in Hillsborough County, Florida. I previously worked for the City of Chicago Office of Budget and Management where I developed my career from Budget Analyst to Administrator of the Community Development Block Grant Program. I am a native Pennsylvanian, and a proud graduate of Pennsylvania State University where I earned a Master's of Public Administration, Magna Cum Laude and a BA in Social Welfare.



What do you like best about your job?

I really enjoy the fact that I am able to work with a variety of departments and agencies. I have worked with departments in the health and human services areas, enterprise funds, planning and growth management and environmental protection. I enjoy learning the operations of each department, their priorities and the challenges each faces particularly in these difficult budget times. I appreciate having the opportunity to be an advocate for departments during the budget process.

I also enjoy conducting budget training for county employees. It is important to understand the process of how we build a budget, why we need performance measures and evaluation techniques especially in the economic conditions in which we are currently struggling.

What motivated you to pursue a career in public administration?

I grew up in a small blue collar town in the northeast. My father was always involved in our community, serving on boards and committees and spending many hours talking politics. I always wanted to go to the council meetings. Being the first generation in my family to go to college, I knew I wanted to work in the public sector and pursued a social work degree. After spending a short time in the field, I wanted to have the opportunity to shape public policy and be a decision maker especially involving funding for programs. To reach that goal, I pursued an MPA and it has been one of the best decisions I have ever made.

What advice would you offer to others who might be interested in a public service career?

Volunteer for different organizations to identify what areas suit you best. For example, I started out volunteering for a pre-school, interned at a group home for delinquent teenagers, worked with the elderly and with a church group that provided services for battered women and children. I strongly advise pursuing a Master's degree at a minimum and take advantage of continuing educational opportunities throughout your career.

What would you say to someone about joining ASPA?

Whether you are a student or working in the field, ASPA is a great place to meet people in a variety of public administration disciplines and organizations. The Suncoast chapter is a very active chapter which is one of the reasons I wanted to serve as a board member. We have a great variety of speakers and social opportunities to network with public sector professionals.

My absolute favorite pas-time is spending time with my children Rebecca and Patrick. Rebecca is home from FSU for the summer and it is great to see her everyday. Patrick is entering Tampa Catholic High School this year and is keeping me busy with summer Legion and All-star baseball. Did I mention I am a die-hard Red Sox baseball fan? Don't ask if you don't have a lot of time to talk. My favorite football team – JoPa's Penn State Nittany Lions.

Happenings!

Suncoast Board at Work!

ASPA SUNCOAST CHAPTER

Board Meeting Minutes (draft/partial—complete minutes are available at <http://www.aspaonline.org/suncoast/>)

June 9, 2009

President Machin called the meeting to order at 12:07 PM and welcomed the new board members. Then members then introduced themselves and presented a brief description of their respective job roles and work experience.

Members present:

Meagan Decker	Robin Gomez
Mariana Llanso	Dr. Don Menzel
Gil Machin	Christine Trovato
Steven Concepcion	Cheryl Arends
Susan Walker	

Installation of Officers:

President Machin asked Robin Gomez to serve as Treasurer and Mr. Gomez accepted; asked the Board for a volunteer to serve as Secretary and Mariana Llanso volunteered for a one year term. The Officers were appointed.

April Meeting Minutes

Secretary Llanso called for a motion and the April Board meeting minutes were approved.

Financial Report

Treasurer Gomez gave his report and it is incorporated in the record. He made the following comments:

Someone made a deposit of \$834.90 in the Chapter account and overlooked notifying the Treasurer. He will investigate and report at the next meeting. The balance on the Chapter account is \$3,793.68. Payment of one year membership dues for the 2009 Phi Alpha Alpha inductees as approved by the Board at the April 2008 meeting was discussed. The Treasurer reported that it appears only 3 inductees are eligible for the student rate. Mr. Gomez to further research ASPA membership categories and rates and report to the Board.

The Board voted to extend the Go-To-Meetings agreement for one more year at a cost of \$468.

Event Calendar was established as follows:

August 2009:	Luncheon
October 2009:	Luncheon
December 2009:	Social Event (Toys for Tots)
January 2010:	Luncheon
March 2010:	Luncheon
April 2010:	Social Event (The Spring)

In the News!

Transparency: too much of a good thing?

Transparency in government is widely believed to be the best medicine for ensuring ethical governance. FOIA and Sunshine laws are based on the premise that the public has a right to know who and how decisions are made that affect the well being of citizens. After all, does not democracy work best when “we the people” are informed?



But are there not limits to the “good” that comes from transparency? Is it, for example, in the public interest to know the salaries of public employees? Or is this too much transparency? Consider the case of Buffalo, New York. Newly elected Mayor `Byron Brown pledged in his campaign to post online the names, job titles, and salaries of city employees that report directly to his office. “My commitment has always been to a more open and transparent city government . . . ,” said the Mayor. And so it is . . . go to http://www.city-buffalo.com/files/1_2_1/Mayor/COB_Employees_2009.pdf

Alas, as it turns out, the online city payroll information for Buffalo includes firefighters, police, laborers, building inspectors, stock clerks, technicians, street workers, and more. The president of the firefighters union says that *“The mayor is just trying to embarrass the men and women in the uniformed ranks for doing jobs that most people in the city appreciate.”*

Can there be too much of a good thing—transparency?

Sources: www.wgrz.com/includes/tools/print.aspx?storyid=65889 and http://nypublicpayrollwatch.com/daily_updates/archives/2009/04/index.html

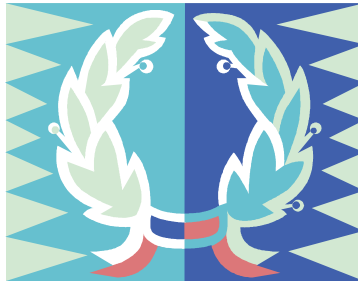
Former City Manager of Coral Gables Censured by ICMA

David Brown, former city manager of Coral Gables, Fla., admitted in sworn testimony during an investigation conducted by the state attorney’s office that he altered public documents and engaged staff in that process in order to conceal alcohol charged to the city at business meals. The board found that Brown’s conduct violated Tenets 2 and 3 of the ICMA Code of Ethics and voted to publicly censure and bar him from future membership in ICMA.

Happenings!

SUNCOAST CHAPTER PRESIDENTS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION OVER 38 YEARS

Gilbert Machin	2009-2010	Thomas Stearns	1990-1991
Steve Concepcion	2008-2009	Phil Rice	1989-1990
Albert C. Coleman	2007-2008	Barbara Van Cott Fidler	1987-1988
John Daly	2006-2007	Jim Stefan	1987-1988
Mary Mahoney	2005-2006	Darryl Paulson	1986-1987
Robin Gomez	2004-2005	Plato Rigos	1985-1986
Brenda Thrower	2003-2004	Jeff Stone	1984-1985
Kim Leinbach	2002-2003	Al Desilet	1984-1983
Jon Lewis	2001-2002	Fred Swiercek	1982-1983
Harry Gross	2000-2001	Gus Ellis	1981-1982
Dave Snyder	1999-2000	Gerrri Mason	1980-1981
Jeff Kronschnabl	1998-1999	Rick Smith	1979-1980
Evelyn Rosetti	1997-1998	Jamil Jriesat	1978-1979
Harry Gross	1996-1997	Glen Robertson	1977-1978
John Daly	1995-1996	Larry Arnold	1976-1977
Mary Mahoney	1994-1995	Maurice O'Donnell	1975-1976
Kathy Rice	1993-1994	John Sidor Jr.	1973-1974
Don Menzel	1992-1993	Hal Angermeyer	1972-1973
Janette Martin (deceased)	1991-1992	Unknown	1971-1972



The Last Word!

Ethics Amid Chaos

**By: Mariana V. Llanso, J.D., MPA
Hillsborough County Public Works**

Two years ago the Florida Legislature passed the ad valorem tax law which rolled back millage rates. We began 2008 with the passage of a referendum that increased the Homestead exemption and closed the year with downward spiral of the economy. We also know that for most local governments the loss of revenue has resulted in a landscape of layoffs, hiring freezes, furloughs, work overload, suspension of merit and cost of living salary increases, and decrease of benefits. Staff reaction is anxiety and despondency which generally leads to cutting corners or slacking off. Imagine what the stress levels are like today when in April 2008 Mike Donila of the St. Pete Times reported that “leaders are finding themselves rushing to squelch rumors and soothing employees demoralized by the prospect of losing their jobs.” The prospect has become a reality for many. In Hillsborough County, 1,070 positions will be eliminated by the end of Fiscal Year 2009.

In times of fiscal constraint and reorganization attention to ethics and accountability in government must take center stage. Yet, as Terry Cooper points out in the *Responsible Public Administrator*, “Because ethics involves substantive reasoning about obligations, consequences, and ultimate ends, its immediate utility for a producing/consuming society is suspect...We should not be surprised then to see expediency and technical considerations dominate decision making.” (1990, pp. xii-xiii).

Notwithstanding predictions, public employees now need to focus their collective and conscious energy. Let us agree that ethics in the public sector means more than doing the right thing in terms of honesty. We have a fiduciary duty to be productive, efficient, and accountable. In the current political environment, it requires leadership from all levels of the organization. Here are some thoughts from a local government public servant’s perspective:

First, let’s not feed, encourage, or even listen to the rumor mill. Gossip halts everyone and every thing; it creates fear and lethargy. The organization’s formal leadership can minimize gossip by simply communicating. Establishing a pattern of timely and accurate communication will build trust. More important, those who exercise informal leadership within agencies need to become vocal and active in diplomatically suppressing the seeds of rumor.

Second, let us not criticize the actions of the formal leadership in our respective organization. Justifications and reasoning will be duly articulated. It is not responsible for us to criticize without having all of the facts. I am reminded of Rosemary O’Leary’s book, *The Ethics of Dissent*. This is the time for us to pull together and convey the message that the executive and the elected officials have a huge task in allocating extremely scarce resources to all the functions and programs provided by government. Loyalty and decorum are especially essential amid organizational chaos.

Third, let us be ultra productive and accountable. This is easier said than done because even the most normally productive employee may feel guilty to address an issue of every day management when budgets are being slashed and people are given their walking papers. We must resist the urge to wait it out. Here again, informal leaders within the organization should set the example by forging ahead. It is okay to let people know that you do not want to be perceived as insensitive, but the work of government must not come to a grinding halt. We must be the energy. In the words of Larry-the-Cable-Guy, git er done!

Invitation

The Happenings newsletter welcomes commentary and updates from the practitioner community. We want to know what you and your colleagues are doing. Send your comments to:
donmenzel@verizon.net