

**Central Florida ASPA
2008-2009 Annual Report – Letter from the New President**

On Wednesday evening this week (05/06/09), our chapter closed out our 2008/2009 year. Outgoing chapter president, Howard Tipton, reported on the successes we enjoyed this past year, including a series of lunch seminars addressing issues of collaboration and networking to solve some of the tough problems our governments and nonprofit organizations are facing in these times. Maria-Elena Augustin, chapter treasurer, reported that our chapter is financially in very good health, thanks to \$2000 received from the proceeds of the Southeast Conference of Public Administration, which the chapter helped host in September 2008 here in Orlando.

We also officially elected the officers for this next year. After serving as your President-elect for the past year, I am stepping into the role of President. Dr. Mike Abels will be serving as President-elect. Maria-Elena Augustin has been elected for another two years as Treasurer, and Dr. Mary Ann Feldheim is continuing her two year term as Secretary.

We have new leaders in the other roles. This year, we will have two Vice Presidents for Outreach: Heather Hanna (a student in the Public Administration masters program at UCF) and Jeff Goltz from Valencia College. We will also have co-Vice Presidents for Programming: Lilian Draisin and Monifa Charles. Last, we will have two Vice Presidents for Student Affairs: Charlotte Merritt (a masters student) and Zafar Hasanov (a doctoral student).

This year, two goals that I have for the chapter are to: (1) strengthen the linkages between the academic membership of the chapter and the practitioner membership of the chapter, and (2) provide more opportunities for our members to participate in discussions with each other, outside of our monthly lunch programs.

As our new board gets to work, we will provide updates to you about how we will strive to accomplish these goals. If you have any ideas, or want to get involved, please contact me at 407-823-0410 or tbryer@mail.ucf.edu.

As we close out Public Service Recognition Week today, I reflect on a statement I heard once from former Virginia Governor, Douglas Wilder: "Public service is rent for our time here on earth." Thank you for your service to our communities. I know as members of this organization, you are leaders who tend to pay more than your share of rent. I look forward to serving you in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Bryer, Ph.D.
President, Central Florida Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration