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Communications Committee 2008-2009

Heather Hamilton-Sims, VP
Simply Jubilee Events, Inc

Lori Evans
Courtyard on St. James

Share your company's accomplishments, the latest trends in the industry or your cutting edge ideas. Get published in Soiree, ISES Houston's publication. Submit your articles to : communications@iseshouston.org for consideration.

A message from the 2008-2009 President



Deborah Elias, CSEP, CMP

Wow, I can't believe my year as your President has come to an end. It went by very quickly. I had an amazing time being at the helm leading a productive board. Everyone worked very hard to make your membership to ISES one of value. We set out to accomplish some finite goals at our board retreat last year in July and I am very happy to report that we accomplished or are close to accomplishing 80% of them. Allow me to share them with you.

Top Ten List of Things to Accomplish 2008-2009

- 1) Formulate an Standard Operating Procedures Manual – This was formulated so going forward board members whose served as volunteers would have a clear understanding of the chapter's guidelines. It was accomplished in July 2008.
- 2) Revise Website and Add a Job Bank – This has been partly accomplished, we are still looking to update the home/splash page but the inside content is current and serves its purpose well. If you have the need to place a job posting on the board, please send to communications@iseshouston.org
- 3) Increase Chapter Communications thru Bi-Monthly Newsletters, Facebook and Press Releases – This goal was definitely accomplished with a very good job being done by the communications department. We have had consistent and thoughtful newsletters, an active Facebook and LinkedIn accounts and from our Gala last year received several write-ups in Houston Business Journal and 002 Magazine.
- 4) Increase New Members by 25% and Retention at 75% - We have had 65 new members join the chapter since May of last year, which is an outstanding accomplishment. Overall we have more members at 130 than the chapter has ever had. Many Kudos to the membership team.
- 5) Establish Student Membership and Solidify Mentor Program – We have setup a team of students from University of Houston who are active and vested in working with ISES and will continue to work on the mentor program.
- 6) Establish Comprehensive CSEP Discussion Group – To date, the Certified Special Events Professional discussion group has met three times and there are at least two people working on achieving this designation of industry excellence.
- 7) Establish Education Scholarship for One Chapter Member – Thanks to the generosity of the Hilton Americas and their hosting of our September program, we have been able to setup a scholarship program for one member to attend Event World.
- 8) Conduct Six Educational Meetings a Year – We had some amazing programs, set up by the capable Programs committee and each meeting had a record number of attendees. Favorite among them was the Social Media Marketing meeting with Peter Shankman and the Networking Dine Around at the Hilton Americas.
- 9) Establish a Sponsorship Program for the Chapter – We are still actively pursuing corporate sponsorship for the chapter and hope that once economic conditions change we will be able to formulate strong partnerships.
- 10) Establish Strong Allied Partnerships with Local Event Organizations – We are in talks with NACE and MPI to work with each other on an Allied Event, which will be used to serve all in the event community.

We also once again had a very successful gala, with a record number of entries in the categories. I encourage everyone to enter as it promotes standard of excellence in the industry. I know that next year's board is already at work to help progress each goal and continue to make ISES a force to be reckoned with. In these times, it is imperative that the industry bands together. I have loved every minute of being your President and I hope that I served you well.

Deborah Elias, CSEP, CMP

Elias Events, LLC

2008-09 President, ISES Houston Chapter



Introducing the 2009-2010 Houston Chapter Board of Directors

President

Mia Monroe, CSEP, MTA
General Manager
Norris Conference Centers Houston
713-780-9300
president@iseshouston.org

President-Elect

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Principal Event Consultant
Simply Jubilee Events
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VP, Membership

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VP, Communications

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Meetings and Events Houston
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VP, Education and Programs

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Immediate Past President

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Directors

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Directors

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713-320-7234
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Linda White
Independent Event Consultant
linwhite22@aol.com



The **Greater Triangle North Carolina ISES Chapter** is hosting the **2009 Southeast Regional Education Conference (REC)** from November 13 - 15, 2009 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

At this conference you will participate in valuable seminars, panel discussions, and roundtables; take tours of incredible new special event venues; and network with industry professionals from around the country at the most exciting social gatherings!

Please visit www.isesnrec.com for additional information and to register.

Save the Dates

ISES Houston Upcoming Events

Crystal ICON Awards

August 23, 2009

6:00 P.M.

Hilton Americas Hotel

1600 Lamar

Houston, TX 77010

www.crystaliconawards.com

September Chapter Meeting

September 2, 2009

5:30 to 8:30 P.M.

Norris Conference Centers - CityCentre

803 Town and Country Lane

Houston, TX 77024

October Chapter Meeting

October 7, 2009

5:30 to 8:30 P.M.

More details to follow.

November Chapter Meeting

November 4, 2009

11:30 A.M to 1:30 P.M.

More details to follow.

December Membership Drive

December 2, 2009

5:30 to 8:30 P.M.

More details to follow.



2009 Crystal ICON Awards



The International Special Events Society Houston Chapter
requests the pleasure of your company
at the

2009 Crystal ICON Awards

with the **2009 ICON Lifetime Achievement Award** recipients

Nancy Ames & Danny Ward
of

Ward & Ames Special Events

Sunday, August 23, 2009

Cocktails at 6:00 pm, Awards at 6:30 pm

Moroccan-inspired dinner immediately following

Hilton Americas-Houston

1600 Lamar

Houston, Texas

Admission is \$85 per person

Sponsorships begin at \$500

To purchase tickets or sponsorships/tables online:

www.crystaliconawards.com

Cocktail Chic Attire

To purchase individual tickets, please visit:

www.crystaliconawards.com/ticket.htm

To purchase tables or other sponsorships, please visit:

<http://www.crystaliconawards.com/Sponsorsorders.htm>



Join ISES and gain access to ever-expanding educational and networking
resources.

Join today at www.iseshouston.org.

Welcome New ISES Houston Chapter Members...

Terry Gobert, Southern Sound Systems
terry@southernsoundsys.com
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Samara Beth Hurley, Celebrations By Samara
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(281) 955-5464

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www.vicandanthony.com
(713) 228-1111

Beth Flores, Elegant Linens
info@elegantlinensevents.com
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Cami Hardtmeier, Abuso Catering
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www.abusocatering.com
(713) 660-6617

Charles Kalas, JoyStix
charles@joystixgames.com
www.joystixgames.com
(713) 224-2225

Gene Ruple, Fashionable Events
generuple@fashionableevents.com
www.fashionableevents.com
(713) 864-9167



New Member Spotlight: Steve Lee, Steve Lee Weddings

Q. What is your position with the company?

A. Photographer and Creative Director

Q. Provide a brief description of what your company does in the event industry.

A. Provide photo and video services for various events. Provide commercial photo and video services for advertising and marketing, such as head shots, product photography, etc.

Q. Any specific accomplishments you would like to highlight?

A. Best of TheKnot.com / Papercity's Blue Book "Must Have" Vendor

Q. Which living person do you most admire?

A. Yervant (photographer), John Stewart, M. Night Shyamalan, Obama, Wayne Dyer



Steve Lee

Q. How do you unwind?

A. Watching the Daily Show with John Stewart

Q. Describe your favorite dining experience?

A. A 5-course dinner in Paris with my wife in 2004. I can't even describe the meal. Everything they brought out was unique and divine.

By far the best meal I've ever had. Close second is a small restaurant in Venice, where we went back 3 times just for the homemade tiramisu. I don't order tiramisu anymore because none of them taste like the one in Venice.

Q. What five things could you not live without?

A. My wife, my nieces, my camera, my Crackberry, my laptop

Q. What's your favorite phrase?

A. Dormant forces, faculties and talents become alive, and you discover yourself to be a greater person by far than you ever dreamed yourself to be.

Q. What tips would you give to others entering the events industry?

A. Start networking at ISES!



AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

Best Entertainment Production

- Candace Clayton, Sullivan Group
- Debbie Myers, CSEP, BRAVO! Productions & Entertainment, Inc. and Sally Webb, CSEP, The Special Event Company (Cultural Carolina)
- Debbie Myers, CSEP, BRAVO! Productions & Entertainment, Inc. and Sally Webb, CSEP, The Special Event Company ("Rethinking the Boundaries" Launch)
- Dan O'Brien and John Halbur, J&D Entertainment

Best Event Design/Décor

- Candace Clayton, Sullivan Group
- Jade Gold, Prop Rock, LLC

Best Event Photography

- Dick Didow, Catch the Moment
- Steve Lee, Steve Lee Weddings

Best Event Videography

- Richard Hoggatt, Stage Directions
- Steve Lee, Steve Lee Weddings
- Stefani Twford, Legacy Multimedia, LLC

Best Team Effort

- Deborah Elias, CSEP, CMP, Elias Events, LLC; Scott Justis, LD

Systems; Jade Gold, Prop Rock, LLC; Gene Ruple, Fashionable Events

- Deborah Elias, CSEP, CMP, Elias Events, LLC; Tom Stringer, Darryl & Co.; Matthew Finnan, Hilton Americas-Houston; David Postma, Genesis Photography; Dan O'Brien, J&D Entertainment

Corporate Event Planning

- Deborah Elias, CSEP, CMP, Elias Events, LLC
- Alex Rasmussen, Sullivan Group (Field of Dreams)
- Candace Clayton, Sullivan Group (Celebrate Enterprise)
- Candace Clayton and Heidi Novosad, Sullivan Group (Aggreko Excellence)

Best Event Produced for a Non-Profit

- Paul-David Van Atta, Hilton Americas-Houston
- Lynn Ellis, eEvents Group

Best Wedding

- Heather Hamilton-Sims, Simply Jubilee Events, Inc.
- Melissa Reyes, Aztec USA and Ann Whittington, Ann Whittington Events

Crème de la Crème

- Debra Bellinghausen and Linda Benson, HESS Express
- Matthew Finnan, Hilton Americas-Houston