



Inn-Sight



Newsletter of the Mid-Florida Chapter *Since 1973* Seven time HFTP Chapter of the Year.

*Gateway to HFTP * <http://www.hftp.org> * Mid-Florida Chapter Web Site * www.midfloridahftp.org

March 2014



2014

Officers & Directors

Officers

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407-626-6760
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HFTP Mid-Florida, Over 40 Years of: Leadership, Scholarship, Participation, Service

General Meeting - Tuesday, March 25th, 2014 The Mid-Florida Chapter Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals

Bohemian Hotel Celebration

700 Bloom Street, Celebration, FL.

Directions: I-4 West (from Orlando) Take I-4 West (towards Tampa) to exit 64 (Hwy 192 East). Make a right at the third light (Celebration Avenue). Follow Celebration Avenue to the fourth stop sign (Campus Street). Turn left onto Campus Street, which will become Bloom Street. Continue on Bloom Street, and Bohemian Hotel Celebration will be on the right.

For parking, there is free parking on the streets and lots around the hotel.
There is also valet parking available at the hotel which is \$14.00.

Speaker and Program

Glenn Scharf Cox, Saltmarsh, Cleaveland & Gund

Topic: "Tax Saving Strategies using Cost Segregation Studies"

These educational sessions fall under specialized knowledge and applications geared to basic knowledge on the topic and there are no prerequisites for attending. One CPE credit hour may be earned for participation in each 50 minute session for a maximum of 1.0 CPE Credits

Reception Cash Bar at 6:00 pm

You may come early if you wish to spend more time networking.

Dinner at 6:45 pm

Menu:

Starter

Fried Goat Cheese Salad: Trio of Exotic Baby Lettuces, Plum Tomatoes, Fried Goat Cheese served with Poppyseed Dressing

Entrée

Bloom Street Marker Medallions of Beef Tenderloin topped with Compound Butter served with Jumbo Prawns and Chef's selection of starch and vegetables

Dessert

Mascarpone Cheesecake

**Please RSVP on our web-site: www.midfloridahftp.org
OR on your personal e-vite from the Chapter Secretary.**

Reservations and cancellations before 12:01 pm Thursday March 20th.

Please, no walk ins. No-shows and late cancellations will be billed.

Dinner : Members with RSVP \$45.00, Non-Members and Guests or no RSVP \$55.00,
Student Chapter Members \$25.00.

[Use the express registration line at the meeting, PAYPAL is available on the web-site.](#)

Please Route to:

GM

HR

President's Corner
By: Judy Holcomb, Ph.D, CHAE

Fellow HFTP Mid-Florida Chapter Members,

What a great meeting we had with the IMA last month. High attendance (although I know we can do better) awesome food and a great speaker. I sat at the table with the speaker and a couple of professors of accounting from UCF and had some very interesting conversation. I love meeting new people and finding out their experiences. Have you met someone new at an HFTP meeting? If you haven't the first step is to get to a meeting. Then find someone you've never met before, whether it's during the cocktail hour or just sit next to someone you don't know. You'll be surprised how much you'll learn. Even if they're not in your field. As introverts, as most IT and accounting people are, we tend (I'm not really an introvert, just trying to empathize) to gravitate to people we know and spend time talking to them at the meeting. I'd like to challenge you, step out of your comfort zone and make it a goal to meet at least one new person at the next meeting. You'll be surprised how much it enriches your life!

Your board of directors are planning lots of great things for you in the coming months. We have our ever popular golf tournament at Rosen Shingle Creek on September 19th and lots of volunteer opportunities with the Cattle Barons Ball on April 12th and Bacchus Bash on April 4th. In addition, since our attendance has been low for the past couple of holiday socials we've decided to try something different. We are having our social event in May this year. It will be on a Friday night, either the 9th or the 16th and we will have dinner and a comedy show at The Improv at Point Orlando, on International Drive. Many of us have several obligations during the holiday which we feel have hindered attendance of our December event, we are hoping this works out better. It's going to be a fun night so plan on attending.

Another important event that we are offering is our Mini-Educational session in June. One of the topics offered will be on the state of public transportation in Central Florida. Dan Stevens will speak on the Sun Rail projects as well as several other transportation projects in the planning stages. We feel this will be an interesting topic as our first mass transit project for Central Florida, the Sun Rail gets under way. In addition, we will be offering the CHAE and CHTP reviews and exams. If you've always said to yourself "one day", well now is the time. Kris Shoemaker has been teaching the CHAE and CHTP review for many many years and is also an instructor at the Rosen College of Hospitality. He will guide you through what you need to know for the test. Even if you're not sure about taking the test, just come for the review and see what it's all about, you'll be surprised how much you already know.

Hope everyone has a productive and wonderful month, till next time!

Thank you all for your continued involvement in the Greatest Chapter in the HFTP Universe!

Respectfully,

Judy

Judy Holcomb, Ph.D, CHAE
 HFTP Mid-Florida Chapter President

Welcome New Members

Michael O'Brien, Kessler Collection, Sponsor:

Ed Barton, Controller
 DoubleTree by Hilton Downtown
 Sponsor: Gayle Edwards

Lisa Hall, Accountant
 HDG Hotels
 Sponsor: Jerry Lewicki

Membership News, Embrace the vision, join the fun!

Committee Chair, **Gregory Wilhelm, CHTP**

407-923-5962 or gregorywilhelm@mindspring.com

The 2014 Membership Contest, IT'S HUGE!!!

You only needed to sponsor one new member to win. Contest ends on August 29, 2014. Drawing will be held at our September, 2014 General Membership meeting. You need not be present to win.

Thank you sponsors, for your generosity and support of the HFTP Mid-Florida Chapter.

The greatest HFTP chapter in the universe!

Dinner for 2 in Hemingway's at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress
 Donated by: E. Lawrence McCloskey, Jr., CHAE - Hotel Manager

Dinner for two in Andiamos (excluding alcoholic beverages), in the Hilton At Walt Disney World
 Donated by: Stephan Ludwig, Director of Finance

Dinner for 2 at A Land Remembered or Calla Bella in Rosen Shingle Creek valued at \$100
 Donated by Frank Santos, CHAE, CHA, Chief Financial Officer, Rosen Hotels & Resorts

\$100.00 Big Fin Restaurant (located in Doctor Philips) gift certificate.
 Donated by Colin Findley, VP Business Development, ProfitSword

Dinner for two at Fiorenzo Italian Steakhouse in the new HYATT REGENCY Orlando
 Donated by John Finch, Director of Finance

A Kindle Fire HD Donated by Tamara Flores, Director of Information Technology, Millennium Technology Group

Dinner for 2 at the Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport
 Donated by: Patricia Geer, CHAE, Controller

Dinner for 2 at the Caribe Royale Resorts Suite's Venetian Room restaurant
 Donated by Lori Schefstad, CHTP, MCSE, Director of Information Systems

Dinner for 2 at the Lowes Portofino Bay Hotel Mama Della's Ristorante
 Donated by: Kelly Montgomery, Controller - Lowes Hotels at Universal Orlando

Brunch for 2 at the Kessler Grand Bohemian Hotel Orlando
 Donated by: Tom Hull, Controller

Dinner for two excluding alcohol in Spencer' steakhouse at the Hilton Orlando on Destination Parkway
 Donated by: Francis Kahle, Director of Finance

\$100 cash prize
 Donated by Don Hay, President, Digital Alchemy, LLC

Dinner for 2 at Shula's in the Swan Hotel WDW
 Donated by Amnon Reshef, Controller - Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort

Chapter Announces 2014 Scholarship Program

By: Michael Dryden, CHAE

The Mid-Florida Chapter announced the launch of its 2014 Scholarship Award program in January through communications sent to several area Colleges and Universities. The program will award a \$1,000 scholarship to students enrolled in an Associates or Bachelor degree program with a major or concentration in accounting, MIS or hospitality management at an accredited institution of higher education with at least one semester or quarter remaining after the scholarship is awarded. Applicants must demonstrate interest in a career in hospitality accounting, hospitality MIS or hospitality management through an essay of 250 words or less, provide references and have earned a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4 point scale.

The deadline for completed 2014 Scholarship applications is March 31, 2014. The Scholarship Committee will make its recommendation for the recipient at the April Board meeting, after which the Scholarships will be presented at the Chapter's April dinner meeting.

Detailed information and application forms are available at the Chapter's web site, www.midfloridahftp.org, and click on "Scholarships".



HFTP Mid-Florida Chapter
Member Spotlight
Josh Almeida

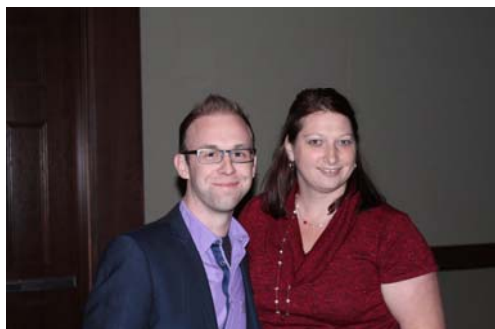
Josh Almeida

President, Ascend Studios

As a self-professed “techie” I graduated Full Sail University with an AA degree in “Show Production & Touring” in 2003. I knew immediately that I loved the idea of theming and audio video design.

After graduating I immediately began working in the field. I rose through the ranks with a couple of large audio video companies and had the chance to work on some incredible and diverse projects. I worked with the Air Force and Lockheed building several high tech mission rooms with 4 star generals, Hard Rock Café (worldwide), Universal Studios, Disney, and more. After more than ten years of amazing projects, I finally had the experience I needed to start my own company, Ascend Studios, in 2011. One of my first projects was to create an app and get it sold on the Apple Store. I created “The Proposal”, an app for small businesses that custom designs bids, proposals and estimates. It’s now an awarding winning, 5 star app on the Apple Store that I’m very proud off. During our three years in business we have also completed dozens of video walls for Nike, Ritz Carlton, InterContinental and other amazing hotel properties across the country. We have created and built hotel audio video systems for all of the Loews Universal Orlando hotels, including the Hard Rock. We have also worked with Disney and with Universal on projects as a consultant for new attraction designs and themed stores and restaurants. It’s been a blast and we’re just getting started!

Board Member Christine Cipar presents Josh with the coveted HFTP-Mid Florida padfolio and welcomes him the chapter.



Are you certifiable?

By: Lori Schefstad, CHTP, MCSA

Your Board of Directors has approved a fabulous incentive for those of you who wish to obtain your certification.

We are sponsoring the \$295 administrative fee for one (1) CHAE (Certified Hotel Accountant Executive) candidate and one (1) CHTP (Certified Hotel Technology Professional) candidate.

If you meet the qualifications and are interested in taking advantage of this generous offer, please follow the rules below.

Eligibility: HFTP Mid-Florida paid chapter member as of February 1, 2014 who are taking the CHAE/CHTP exams for the first time.

Interested members should provide the following:

Resume

2 Letters of Recommendation (1 must be from a HFTP Mid Florida Member)

A short description of why you desire to become certified.

All applications must be received by March 31st, 2014. Please mail all information to:

HFTP Mid-Florida Chapter
 P.O. Box 692004
 Orlando, FL, 32869-2004

We are planning to have exam reviews at our next Mini-Educational meeting, currently scheduled for June 17, 2014. These sessions are also an excellent source of CPE points for those maintaining their certifications.

For all the information regarding certification, please consult the HFTP global website.

CHAE - <http://www.hftp.org/Pages/Certification/CHAE.aspx>

CHTP - <http://www.hftp.org/Pages/Certification/CHTP.aspx>

Obtaining a prestigious industry related certification can open numerous doors, so take advantage of this offer.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS 2014

We need you !!! If you are interested in contributing to any of the committees, please contact any Board Member. * Denotes Chair

Education – Mini Ed Conf.

*Susan Ferguson 407-506-2222
 Lori Schefstad 407-238-8445

Job Bank/Legislative/By-Laws

*Judy Holcomb 352-588-8005

Membership Relations/Recruitment

*Gregory Wilhelm 407-923-5962 or gregorywilhelm@mindspring.com

Communications

Webmaster:www.midfloridahftp.org

* Ken Wear 407-463-3895

Lori Schefstad 407-238-8445

Social Media

* Ken Wear 407-463-3895

Newsletter Ed.

*Bill Parrish 407-876-8038

Admin/Program/Speakers

* Arthur Kasper 407-626-6760

Christine Cipar 407-816-5188

Admin. Locations

* Christina Finch 407-478-1956

Scholarship Awards

* Michael Dryden 407-597-4068

Nasir Naseer 407-387-0242

Terri Nobles 407-319-1031

Nominations

* Terri Nobles 407-319-1031

Chad Curtis 407-996-6143

Michael Dryden 407-597-4068

Kris Shoemaker 407-685-9827

Bill Parrish 407-876-8038

Larry McCloskey 407-239-3962

Chapter of the Year and Regional Conference

* The Board

Hospitality Committee

* Greg Wilhelm 407-923-5962

Christine Cipar 407-816-5188

Nasir Naseer 407-387-0242

Community Services

[CFH&LA Ex-Officio Board Member](#)

Judy Holcomb 352-588-8005

Bacchus Bash

* Larry McCloskey 407-239-3962

* Michael Dryden 407-597-4068

Gordon LeBlanc 386-235-3875

Arthur Kasper 407-626-6760

Charity Golf Event

It's all for the kids!

* Jack Griffith 407-685-7520

Jeff Fernandez 407-685-7521

Kris Shoemaker 407-685-9827

Gordon LeBlanc 386-235-3875

Arthur Kasper 407-626-6760

Cattle Baron's Ball

* Chad Curtis 407-996-6143

Publications /Publicity

* Gordon LeBlanc 386-235-3875

Lori Schefstad 407-238-8445

Arthur Kasper 407-626-6760

Chapter Calendar

Lori Schefstad 407-238-8445

Fun Committee

Dr. Judy Holcomb 352-588-8005

Chapter Historian

Michael Dryden 407-597-4068

Sharpen your pencils, pack your note books and get ready for some

FREE STUFF!



Learn, Connect, Succeed

**HFTP Mid-Florida Chapter 2014
Summer Mini-Ed**

Date: June 17th, 2014, Nickelodeon Suites Resort

Afternoon Presentation:

Registration 12:30 pm to 1:00 pm

Four great afternoon Seminars and the Cost is

.....\$ FREE for 4 CPE credits

Reception Cash Bar:

6:00 pm – 6:45 pm

Dinner:

6:45 pm – 8:00 pm, standard price

8:00pm - 9:00pm, Seminar 1 CPE

9:00 pm – 9:15pm Chapter Business

There will be excellent speakers on a wide variety of subjects. We will kick off the event at 1:00 pm, so plan to be there for a great afternoon and evening of informative speakers, good food and excellent company.

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MID-FLORIDA CHAPTER

P.O. Box 692004

Orlando, FL 32869-2004

2014 HFTP Mid-Florida CALENDAR

Note: Meeting fees for 2014 are \$45 Regular member, \$25 Student, \$55 all guests, Non-Members and failed to RSVP.

Prepay your meeting fee on the web-site with PayPal

- March 25th, General Meeting, 6 pm, Bohemian Hotel Celebration
- April 3rd Thursday, Board Meeting, 6 pm, Nickelodeon Suites Resort
- April 4th, 2014 Bacchus Bash, Orlando Premium Outlets
- April 12th American Cancer Society Cattle Baron's Ball, Rosen Shingle Creek
- April 29th, General Meeting, 6 pm, All new Castle Hotel
- May 6th, Board Meeting, 6 pm, TBD
- May 16th, FRIDAY, SOCIAL Orlando Improv Comedy Club & Dinner Theater-Point Orlando
- June 3rd, Board Meeting, TBD
- June 17th, Mini-Ed, 1 pm, Nickelodeon Suites Resort
- June 23-26 HITEC 2014 La La Land
- July 8th, Board Meeting, 6 pm, TBD
- July 24-26 Florida Regional, Hyatt Coconut Point, Bonita Springs FL
- July 29th, General Meeting, 6 pm, Wyndham Orlando Resort I-Drive

For more Chapter news visit the Universally acclaimed Chapter Web Site at: www.midfloridahftp.org

The opinions expressed in the Mid-Florida Chapter newsletter and web-site are solely those of the editor, web master or author of the article and have nothing to do with HFTP Global and/or in some cases reality, political correctness or good hygiene.



A CALL FOR CERTIFICATION

Be the best that you can be!



Save the Date!

Florida Regional Conference 2014
Hyatt Regency Coconut Point



Resort & Spa
Bonita Springs, FL



July 24 to July 26
2014



MEMBERSHIP

**RECRUIT NOW
GET CERTIFIED**



RENEW NOW

THREE COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES "Your Chance to Give Back"



**10 Check-Out Volunteers Needed For The
American Cancer Society's
Cattle Baron's Ball!**



**Saturday, April 12th 2014, 6:00 pm to 12:00 am
Rosen Shingle Creek Resort
9939 Universal Blvd**

Various Shifts Also Needed For Friday & Saturday

**If interested, please contact Chad Curtis, CHAE 407-996-6143
Or ccurtis@rosenhoteles.com**

**The CFHLA's Bacchus Bash
60 Volunteers needed**



Benefiting the CFHLA Educational Trust Fund -for hospitality student scholarships and hospitality school grants.

**Bacchus Bash Friday, April 4, 2014
Orlando Premium Outlets
5pm - 10pm**

HFTP Volunteer Information

Shifts run: 3:30pm – 7:00pm or 7:00pm – 10:00pm, First Shift Check-in time: 3:00pm

**Please contact Larry McCloskey, CHAE 407-262-8042
Or larry.mccloskey@hyatt.com**

**And finally, the 12th Annual Chapter Golf Event to benefit
Camp Boggy Creek
Friday September 19th Rosen Shingle Creek.**



It's all for the kids!



**For information contact Jack Griffith 407-685-7520
Or jack.griffith@centerplate.com**