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## I Have an Announcement!



Debra Bellinghausen

I'm not tooting my own horn or patting myself on the back, but...I just want to inform my fellow ISES members that I have recently been named General Manager of the HESS Club.

I cannot be more excited about this new endeavor and I am really looking forward to leading such a great team. I owe my confidence and leadership skills to take on this position to ISES.

*"Toot-Toot!"*

(you know that's hard to do since my elbow is broken from patting myself on the back!)

As members, all of you have the opportunity to promote your businesses, make announcements about new developments for your business and share some of your professional, experience and advice in this newsletter! This is one of the best tools that you have to inform fellow members about who you are and what you do! Be like me- toot your horn! We want to hear from you!

*Debra Bellinghausen*  
President- ISES Houston Chapter

### Communications Committee 2007-2008

**Mia Monroe, VP**  
Texas Medical Center

**Debra McDonald**  
Corporate Events and Occasions

**Heather Hamilton- Sims**  
Simply Jubilee Events, Inc.

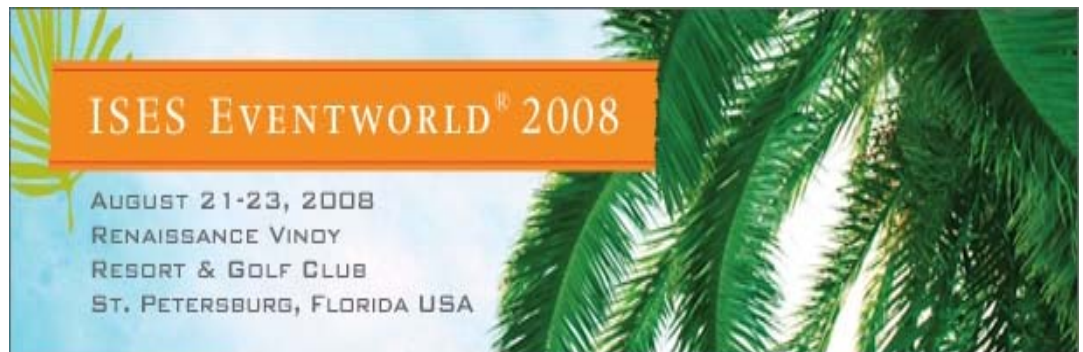
**Rayford Mitchell, II**  
Student

**Heidi Novosad**  
Sullivan Group

**David Postma**  
Genesis Photographers

## Registration Now Open for Eventworld® 2008

Eventworld® 2008 -An Institute for Professional Development is the premier continuing education event for the special events industry. You will improve your skills and knowledge at this international conference. You will be inspired and motivated by new, fresh ideas. You will meet other event professionals from around the world who share your passion for excellence. Registration is now open at [www.ises.com](http://www.ises.com)!



**ISES EVENTWORLD® 2008**  
AUGUST 21-23, 2008  
RENAISSANCE VINDY  
RESORT & GOLF CLUB  
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA USA



## Member Spotlight: Nicole Alvarez, Meeting and Events Houston

By Nicole Alvarez, Meeting and Events Houston



Nicole Alvarez

With a unique audience of over 10,000 meeting planners and industry experts, *Meetings and Events Houston* provides a fresh look at the meetings and events industry in our immense city.

Published twice a year and available online, *Meetings and Events Houston* is a comprehensive resource tool designed to assist and guide the planning process by providing solid advice, ideas, current information and meeting and entertainment options. The publication's spiral-bound format and streamlined design work together to create a modern and practical tool.

My team and I have worked diligently to ensure that our product is user-friendly, accurate and accommodating. We strongly believe that utilizing our publication to its fullest degree is an invaluable resource to any meeting or event planner.

Designed especially for meeting and event planners, [www.MeetingsandEventsHouston.com](http://www.MeetingsandEventsHouston.com) pre-



sents comprehensive information on hotels, restaurants, meeting facilities, catering companies and much more.

Launched this year on the site, the *Referral Request* feature connects meeting planners to everyone and everything that they need to plan a one-of-a-kind event in the Houston region. The web site also offers an online *Certificate Exchange Program* and information on advertising opportunities.

I understand the hardships that face business meeting professionals and I aim to ease all aspects of the process by whatever means possible. My daily mission is to become the spill between business meetings professionals and *Meetings and Events Houston* partners, while working hand-in-hand to produce side events.

*Meetings and Events Houston* is an essential tool for any meeting or event planner. For more information or to obtain a copy of this dynamic publication, contact me directly at [Nicole@houstonpublications.com](mailto:Nicole@houstonpublications.com) or log on to [www.MeetingsandEventsHouston.com](http://www.MeetingsandEventsHouston.com).

*Nicole Alvarez is the Director of Publication and Events for Meetings and Events Houston.*

## Employment Opportunity at the University of Houston Hilton College

The Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management is seeking a full-time Event Coordinator who will be responsible for planning, implementing, and managing the Hall of Honor event held in the fall along with a team of student directors in the planning process of this event. He or she will be responsible for contracting vendors, coordinating mailing list and collecting RSVP's for both Hall of Honor and Gourmet Night. The Event Coordinator will serve as the "point of contact" for all group assignments for The Center. Monitor all contractual agreements pertaining to meeting space, food and beverage and special concession. Effectively communicate to all hotel departments the information necessary to successfully execute the group's needs while maintaining a good client relationship. He or she will also work on developing programs for the college. Job Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree Required, Master's or MBA desired
- At least one year of catering manager, event planning, and/or convention service manager execution experience; working knowledge of hotel operations.
- Be able to demonstrated leadership, management and negotiation skills with both staff and student and the ability to develop rapport with students, parents, alumni, faculty, staff administration and the general public.
- This position requires organizational, analytical and integration skills, attention to detail and ability to manage multiple priorities and deadlines in fast-paced office environment.
- The ability to flex working hours to accommodate weekend and evening events.
- Strong computer skills including Microsoft Office are essential.

For more information please contact Dr. Carl Boger, Associate Dean of Academic Programs at [cboger@central.uh.edu](mailto:cboger@central.uh.edu)

# Member News



## Welcome New Members!

### Robert Manttari

Catering Sales Manager

Crowne Plaza Houston West

14703 Park Row

281.406.1027

Robert.manttari@lhg.com

[www.crowneplazahoustonwest.com](http://www.crowneplazahoustonwest.com)

## 2007-08 Houston Chapter Board of Directors

### President

Debra Bellinghausen

Director of Sales and Special Events

The HESS Club

713-627-2283 x102

debrab@hessclub.com

[www.hessclub.com](http://www.hessclub.com)

### President-Elect

Deborah Elias, CSEP, CMP

Owner, Elias Events, LLC

713-334-1800

debbie@eliasevents.com

[www.eliaevents.com](http://www.eliaevents.com)

### VP, Membership

Hedi Aghajani

Director of Catering and Sales

The Courtyard on St. James

713-621-0555 x18

hedi@courtyardonstjames.com

[www.courtyardonstjames.com](http://www.courtyardonstjames.com)

### VP, Communications

Mia Monroe

Event Coordinator

Edwin Hornberger Conference Center  
of the Texas Medical Center

713-791-7674

mia\_monroe77@yahoo.com

[www.tmc.edu](http://www.tmc.edu)

### VP, Education and Programs

Mindy Reynolds

Owner

M. Reynolds Events

713-884-5984

mreynoldsevents@gmail.com

### Immediate Past President

Veronika Millstid- Levine

Owner

Bailey Connor Catering

713.932.8335

vmillstid@sbcglobal.net

[www.baileyconnorcatering.com](http://www.baileyconnorcatering.com)

### Directors

Sharlene Barris

Events Coordinator

Hidden Oaks Bed & Breakfast/ Dream-  
world Events

713.640.2457

sharlenebarris@sbcglobal.net

[www.hiddenoaksbnb.com](http://www.hiddenoaksbnb.com)

Mary Kay Brady

Senior Event Specialist

Aztec Tents and Events

713.688.0088

mkbrady@aztecusa.com

[www.aztecusa.com](http://www.aztecusa.com)

Dick Didow

CEO

Catch the Moment

877.895.8700

rdidow@catchthemoment.com

[www.catchthemoment.com](http://www.catchthemoment.com)

Tiffany Johnson

Distinguished Events Manager

High Plains Division

American Cancer Society Houston Metro

713.706.5685

thecrown@peoplepc.net

[www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

Dave Vandiver

Owner

Show Business Entertainment, Inc.

713.869.6100

dave@showbusinessonline.com

[www.showbusinessonline.com](http://www.showbusinessonline.com)

Yvonne Wilson, TMF

Owner

YVONNE'S Floral Delights

281.252.3233

Yvonne@y-f-d.com

[www.y-f-d.com](http://www.y-f-d.com)



ISES

ESPRIT

AWARDS

Are you an ISES member with a few things to say? Do you have a special business announcement? Have you learned of a new trend you'd like to share with others? Just want to see yourself published? Submit your articles to [mia\\_monroe77@yahoo.com](mailto:mia_monroe77@yahoo.com) for consideration.

F.Y.I.



## What you missed in February...

The Courtyard on St. James hosted a sweet-heart of a lunch on February 13<sup>th</sup> for ISES. Our speaker, Chris Duell, discussed Insurance.

WHAT? Yes, I said Insurance!

We learned that in the life of health insurance, more letters exist besides HMO, and PPO! Can you believe it? We learned that small businesses have options to offer their employees health benefits and learned that premiums don't always increase year to year. Those who attended certainly saw their membership pay off! Good for you!

ISES Houston would like to give a special thanks to Hedi Aghajani and the staff at The Courtyard on St. James for hosting such a wonderful luncheon and Mr. Chris Duell for letting us know just how simple it really is to navigate our way through the insurance maze as long as we are well informed!



### January Happy Hour at Salud! Winery





## Finally! A CSEP Overview for Houston in April- Save the Date!

**A**re you looking to earn a CSEP, but don't know where to start? Interested in learning about the new test format and requirements? Want to know what on earth the CSEP is and why its so important to you?

Join us as Robert DuVon, CMP, CSEP give us an overview of the new program and testing format of the Certified Special Event Professional exam. Learn more about the development of the CSEP designation and receive tips on how you can test successfully. Bring your notepads and your thinking caps. If you're looking to advance your career, this is not a meeting you would want to miss!

Robert DuVon, CMP, CSEP, is CEO and owner of The RJD Group and associated companies including Austin Event Professionals, Austin Sky-Dancers, and Eichenbaum Displays, Inc.

Robert was a member of the 2006-2007 ISES Certification Committee responsible for writing the new and improved computer-based CSEP exam, and encourages all event professionals

to take their career to the next level by pursuing the top special events professional certification available- the CSEP.

He is a recipient of the ISES International Esprit Award and two Texas Star Awards, a speaker at the 2007 Special Event and Eventworld 2007, and a recipient of the 2006-2007 ISES International Volunteer of the Year Award.

Robert's service to the events industry includes founding officer and board member of the ISES Austin Chapter, chapter Treasurer, member of multiple chapter committees, Chair of the 2005-2006 ISES International Spirit of Excellence Committee, Esprit Judging Panel Chair, Austin Community College School of Hospitality Professor, member of NACE, and is the 2007-2008 ISES Austin Chapter President.

Of special note to the Houston Chapter, Robert is a University of Houston business graduate.

Join us Wednesday, April 9th at the HESS Club! Registration and cocktails begin at 5:30pm.



Don't miss this event!



## Current CSEP Exam Dates and Deadlines

<u>Exam Window</u>	<u>Application and Application Fee Due Date (90 days before)</u>	<u>Exam Fee Due Date</u>
July 15-30, 2008	April 17, 2008	June 17, 2008
October 15-30, 2008	July 21, 2008	September 22, 2008
January 15-30, 2009	October 20, 2008	December 15, 2008
April 15-30, 2009	January 16, 2009	March 16, 2009

\*Note you will not receive your SMT exam reg-