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Heather Hamilton-Sims, VP
Simply Jubilee Events, Inc

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Courtyard on St. James

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Genesis Photography

Jasmine Torres
Biz Radio Houston

Welcome to the New 2008-09 ISES Houston Chapter



Deborah Elias, CSEP, CMP

Why do I network? Chief amongst the reasons are the camaraderie I feel being surrounded by peers and colleagues and of course to gain new business contacts. Each time I go to an event, I really take the time to meet new people that I have not encountered before. I enjoy spending time with them and finding out how I can help them in business and how they can to the same for me. When attending networking functions, I always bring plenty of business

cards. I try to get as many as I can. The next day, I scan the business cards I get into my scanning software (a must have for any shrewd business entrepreneur), which put them into my database program. I usually, if not always, send a follow-up email or a note to them thanking them for their time. Follow-up is a huge key to successful networking. So how does that tie into ISES? Well, I hope you know but if you don't, attending ISES events and networking is a great way to grow your business and meet likeminded people in the industry.

Deborah Elias, CSEP, CMP

Elias Events, LLC

2008-09 President, ISES Houston Chapter

Now Offering: Local Job Posting Services

We are now taking Networking to another level. Looking for that perfect job? Trying to find high-quality candidates? Do you want industry professionals to see your current job opening? ISES Houston Chapter proudly introduces our new Job Posting Services.

Due to the ever-increasing demand for intelligent, qualified candidates, we are now offering Job Postings Services. We will post your current job opening on our website for 90 days. Included in this posting will be a new feature on our email campaigns, with a link to current jobs. This will put your current job opening in front of hundreds of people with nearly 500 impressions during the course of a 90 day period.

If you are interested in broadcasting your job opening, email us at: communications@iseshouston.org for additional information.



ISES Dallas Raises Over \$25,000 for Hurricane Ike Relief

By Lori Evans

Hurricane Ike barreled into the densely populated Texas coast near Houston early on Saturday, September 13, 2008 bringing with it a wall of water and ferocious winds and rain that could cause catastrophic flooding along the Gulf of Mexico and cripple the fourth-largest U.S. city.

Ike, which has idled more than a fifth of U.S. oil production, came ashore at the barrier island city of Galveston as a strong Category 2 storm at 2:10 a.m. CDT (3:10 a.m. EDT) with 110 mph winds, the National Hurricane Center said. It is the biggest storm to hit a U.S. city since Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans in 2005. The hurricane drove a wall of water over Galveston and submerged a 17-foot sea wall built to protect the city after a 1900 hurricane killed at least 8,000 people.

More than half of its 60,000 residents had fled and emergency operations were suspended through the storm. About 50 miles inland, Ike lashed downtown Houston's glass-covered skyscrapers, blowing out windows and sending debris flying through water-clogged city streets. Buildings were damaged and there were fallen trees and power lines across the Houston area. Houston was dark Saturday morning except for downtown and the Texas Medical Center, which are fed by underground power sources. Nearly all 2 million customers, or 4.5 million people, in the Houston-Galveston



were without power. "This is a huge storm that caused a lot of damage, not only in Texas, but also in parts of Louisiana," U.S. President George W. Bush.

Coming to Houston's rescue, ISES Dallas members and many area Event Industry Professionals came together to present "A Production for Reconstruction," a fundraiser benefitting the victims of Hurricane Ike at Gilley's Dallas. The special evening was a huge success, raising over \$25,000 for The American Red Cross, to aid in their relief efforts on the Texas Gulf Coast. The idea for this soiree came after employees from Outstanding Productions and Fauxcades, volunteered at area American Red Cross relief centers the weekend that Hurricane Ike struck South Texas. They saw first-hand how The American Red Cross was in desperate need of cash after recent national emergencies. They got together to call upon their clients, colleagues, loyal vendors, and residents of the Dallas Metroplex to ask for help. Donations of resources, time and talent came rushing in immediately. The generous owners of Gilley's Dallas stepped up to offer the venue for the

event, and their in-house catering company, G Texas Custom Catering, said they would provide the food.

Entertainment for the evening was donated by a variety of ISES Dallas members and included a band on the main stage and a fabulous Las Ve-



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ISES Houston Welcomes New Members!

Jan Cancila, Owner
The Linen House
(713) 522-1711
Jan@LinenHouse.com
www.LinenHouse.com

Phoebe K. Childers, Owner/President
Corporate Expressions
(281) 807-7898
phoebe@corporateexpressions.cc
www.corporateexpressions.cc

Kelli Christofferson, President
Designology Ink
(713) 865-2444
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Rhonda L. Light, President
Premiere Events
(979) 690-9678
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Torrye J. Metoyer, Marketing Coordinator
P2 Energy Solutions
(713) 590-9264
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Malori Isham, Student
(713) 334-1800
malori@eliasevents.com

Samantha A. Darr,
Principal/Lead Consultant
soireebliss! llc
(214) 679-1603
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www.soireebliss.com

Join ISES and gain access to ever-expanding educational and networking resources.
Join today at www.iseshouston.org.



What is Certified Special Events Professional (CSEP)?

The CSEP designation is the hallmark of professional achievement in the special events industry. It is earned through education, performance, experience and service to the industry and reflects a commitment to professional conduct and ethics.

The CSEP designation is awarded by the International Special Events Society (ISES) and its Certification Committee. ISES is the only international umbrella organization representing professionals in all disciplines of the special events industry. To find out more about the CSEP designation, visit www.ises.com/CSEP.

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gas Casino with a rockin' DJ. Also, a Silent Auction stocked with all kinds of fantastic items ranging from intimate dining experiences to sports and theatrical attractions, luxury services and personal products and one-of-a-kind works of art by local artists, as well as a Live Auction including a 40" plasma screen television, a home theater system and an adorable Shih Tzu puppy - all of which was donated on a moment's notice! "It's been an extremely humbling experience to see the generosity of our community," said Raymond T. Shelton, Na-

tional Sales Director for Fauxcades. "Literally every person we called upon stepped right up and either donated something for the event or an item for our auctions. I've been in the event industry for over 15 years on the non-profit side, and it would have taken a whole year to put together an event this size; but with the help of all of our generous colleagues and fellow ISES Dallas members, we were able to do this all in one week!"



MEMBER NEWS



2008-09 Houston Chapter Board of Directors

President

Deborah Elias, CSEP, CMP
Owner, Elias Events, LLC
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Adrienne Wagenheim
Owner
Ideal Party Decorators
713-661-1113

SAVE THE DATES

ISES Houston Upcoming Events

November Chapter Meeting
November 5, 2008
Hilton Houston Post Oak
5:30 Registration

December Chapter Meeting
Date TBD

January Chapter Meeting
January 7, 2009
Details to follow

The Special Events 2009
San Diego, CA
January 26-30, 2009
www.thespecialeventshow.com

February Chapter Meeting
February 4, 2009
Details to follow

March Chapter Meeting
March 4, 2009
Details to follow

April Chapter Meeting
April 8, 2009
Details to follow

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.



New Member Spotlight: Evangelia McCarthy



Q. What is your position with the company?

A. Social Catering Manager

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

A. The Houstonian Hotel, Club and Trellis Spa plays hosts to social and corporate catering events as well

providing hotel rooms and resort amenities.

Q. Any specific accomplishments you would like to highlight? (Limit 2 please)

A. Training for the Houston Marathon (accomplishment in the making)

Q. What do you usually drink?

A. Grey Goose and Tonic with Lime

Q. What's your favorite smell?

A. Baking bread and fresh baked chocolate chip cookies

Q. Which living person do you most admire?

A. My Mother

Q. What would you most change about yourself?

A. Care less what other people think

Q. How do you unwind?

A. Listen to music or watch funny TV shows

Q. What makes you happy?

A. My family and friends.

Q. Describe your favorite dining experience?

A. It was on a ranch in Patagonia – the best barbequed lamb I ever tasted with a smooth Malbec looking out at the Argentinean outback.

Q. What did you most want to be when you grew up?

A. Entertainment Reporter

Q. What would be your dream holiday?

A. Galapagos Islands

Q. What's your favorite phrase?

A. Yikes!

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

A. Be very patient and be willing to put forth the effort to be successful.

And never burn any bridges.

Q. What's the most important lesson life has taught you?

A. Everything happens for a reason

Online Social Networking with ISES

By Heather Hamilton-Sims

Technology is forever evolving and what is hot now will be out of date in six months. The online social networks are following the same suit. A few short years ago MySpace was the hottest social network to be a part of and now there is Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and countless others.

ISES Houston Chapter has established pages on MySpace, Facebook and LinkedIn. Our goal is to stay connected with it's members and others in the events industry, provide chapter updates, form discussion groups and share our best practices. Check out our pages and stay connected:

MySpace: www.myspace.com/iseshouston

Facebook: www.facebook.com/people/Ises_Houston/1464050414

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/iseshouston





Help Raise Money for ISES and Enjoy the Show Too!

By Craig Howard

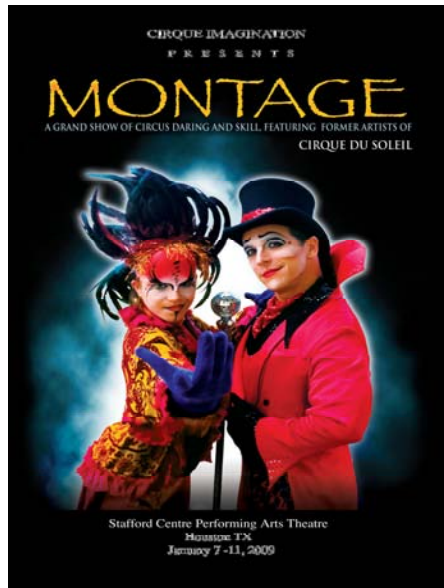
Cirque Imagination presents Montage! But don't be intimidated! It is a grand show of circus daring and skill, starring former members of Cirque du Soleil's Mystere, O, Sultimbanco, Alegria and Quidam. This production aims to defy the perception of what is possible, fusing strength, flexibility and technical skill, fostering an appreciation for the beauty and capabilities of the human body.

For years we have provided exciting Cirque du Soleil inspired shows featuring former Cirque performers. More than 25 world class performers fill our elite roster as the best of the best. Currently our troupe continues to amaze the corporate circuit including conventions, product launches and tradeshows. Private parties, award shows and galas – let us use our imagination and give rise to your event as you join our world of make believe.

We offer packaged shows ranging from 20 minutes to 2 hours in length. One of our most popular is performed with only minor rigging involved. Our free standing pole rigging assembles in minutes to support our aerialists and pole climbing performances – catapulting our performers up to 20 feet high in the air. Before you know it – the rigging is disassembled and travels with ease as we return home. Our unique rigging apparatus allows us to stand out from other Cirque companies in ways you never imagined.

Travel with us as we raise the bar to new heights. Our creative power has no bounds – join us on our voyage as we journey through our fascinating world of imagination. Cirque Imagination! Cirque Imagination! Our imagination became a reality for one reason – to produce first class Cirque entertainment at an affordable cost with superior quality.

Our company is comprised of former Cirque du Soleil



artists who have perfected their art to entertain you! With more than 25 impressive artists – you will be amazed and delighted by their acrobatic flair. Selecting the right production company is essential to the success of any event. Our management team has created unique, upscale entertainment in a wide array of venues. We design entertainment for corporate meetings and tradeshows, incentive programs, fundraisers and private celebrations. Multimedia production, stage creation, décor, lighting, menu design and talent – we manage it all! Not only do we imagine the most unique event experience for you – we guar-

antee it!

Our team produces each and every event with the utmost creativity, energy and dedication. Like our contortionist – we “bend over backwards” for our clients. Our imagination, commitment, diverse talent and long standing relationships with premiere vendors from around the world – these vital elements are crucial to the success of your event.

We possess these components to ensure that every Cirque Imagination affair is delivered with perfection. No matter how big or how small – we orchestrate each affair with individual care - paying attention to every detail. Imagine your every desire with Cirque Imagination! Cirque Imagination is producing (8) live theater performances on January 7-11, 2009 at the Stafford Performing Arts Theater. We are offering to ISES the opportunity to receive a generous rebate of \$10 per ticket sold through Ticketmaster.com or at the theater box office.

For any questions, please contact Craig Howard at 713.320.7234.

