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### Houston 2006 Special Event Awards

HOUSTON – On Sunday evening, the Hilton Americas Hotel was the site of the 2006 Houston Special Event Awards, the fifth annual gala staged to honor outstanding achievements in local events. The gala is presented by the Houston Chapter of the International Event Society, and for the third year, it was produced by Deborah Elias, CSEP, CMP of Elias Events. This year's theme was "The Shape of Things to Come" – and shapes it did feature.

The Lanier Ballroom at the Hilton received some very contemporary treatment with striking fabric sculptures lit in deep colors; round video projection screens; a mixture of square and round tables; a circular lighting truss; and a five-foot tall, diamond-shaped, presentation stage. The copper and black linens colors complimented the room nicely, as did the varying centerpiece designs. The evening's video presentation, projections, lighting, and sound support were masterful accompaniments.

This year's honoree was Scott Evans of "The Social Book", Houston's consummate guide for social event planning. In his acceptance speech, Evans said of the event, "I'm proud to know you and have many of you as friends and clients. May you continue to demonstrate your gifts by showcasing your endless creativity. Thank you for this honor."

Aside from the traditional presentation of awards, attendees were treated to a performance of "The Three Waiters", who pretended to be waiters during the banquet, and then broke into a routine of incredible operatic singing. But the awards were the highlight of the evening, and a record number of nominations were judged. The winners were:

- Best Industry Related Contribution  
Eventions, Inc.
- Best Houston Team Effort  
Party Props Inc., Hilton Americas Houston
- Best Corporate Event Planning under \$100,000  
Hilton Americas Houston
- Best Corporate Event Planning over \$100,001  
Sullivan Group
- Best Event Produced for a Non-profit under \$100,000

University of Houston-Downtown  
Best Event Produced for a Non-profit over \$100,001  
Hilton Americas Houston  
Best Event Design / Décor / Floral  
Art Attack  
Best Social Event Planning under \$100,000  
Let It Fly Events  
Best Social Event Planning over \$100,001  
Sullivan Group  
Best Technical Production  
Party Props, Inc.  
Best Event Photography  
Aimeezing Faces  
Best Catering  
Melange Catering and Special Events  
Best Marketing Design  
Catch the Moment

The corporate sponsor for this year's Gala was Colonnade Events, a newly formed event rental company headquartered near Hempstead Highway. Other in-kind sponsors included Party Props, Darryl Murchison Design, Fashionable Events, Eventions, Elias Events, Pink Inc, Hilton-Americas Houston, and Stage Directions, who provided extensive technical support. The most unique aspect of the event was the live-streaming provided by iSEEnetworks. The event was viewed by several hundred people live and will be archived and accessible for one year via [www.iseshouston.org](http://www.iseshouston.org). This cutting edge technology really highlighted the theme and was an actual representation of "the shape of things to come."

The International Special Events Society (ISES) is comprised of more than 4,000 special event professionals who represent innovative, knowledgeable, and professional services that consistently create high quality events. Its mission is to educate, advance, and promote the special event industry and its network of professionals along with related industries. For more information on the Houston Chapter of ISES, call 713-334-1800 or visit [www.iseshouston.org](http://www.iseshouston.org).