



THE CHAPTER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD and RIMS STUDENT SUPERSTAR WINNING HOUSTON CHAPTER

October - November 2011

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Stephanie.gaffron@swiftenergy.com

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FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT...

Good day Houston RIMS Members,

First and foremost, I want to thank everyone who participated in our Fall Conference held in mid-October. It was a beautiful day, the educational sessions were excellent, the networking was fantastic and I also enjoyed meeting several of you who I had not had the chance to get to know prior to the conference. A big thank you, again, to our sponsors, our speakers, our attendees, and the 2011 RIMS Board - we couldn't have done this without you.

This month, we have a couple of great speakers presenting on Mitigating Defense Costs – Amanda Mount, SVP, Houston Health Care Practice Leader at Willis and Chastiti Horne, attorney with Ebanks Horne Rota Moos LLP. We hope you will be able to join us for this meeting. **A very big thank you to Wortham for underwriting this luncheon for the Houston RIMS Chapter and our members.**

Although our regular monthly meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month, we make an exception for December. December is a special meeting as we finish out the year and also install our new Houston Chapter Board members. In order to properly celebrate, avoid as many holiday conflicts as possible, and make the meeting a little more fun, we will be holding it on **Thursday, December 8th at 5:30 pm**. We hope you can join us – we'll have a great speaker, Houston Chapter Board members' installation, dinner and a glass of wine or two waiting for you to celebrate.

Also, on Saturday, December 10th from 11am to 3pm we will be hosting our 2011 Houston Chapter Holiday Party. Our Holiday Party is a little different than what you might have experienced with other organizations in that we sponsor and organize a party for the children of a local non-profit organization. This year, as we have the past couple of years, we are teaming with the Creative Dreams Outreach Center. Creative Dreams is an organization for children, some who are mentally challenged, from very low income homes or are in the foster care system. At the party, we organize age appropriate arts & crafts, have pizza, and offer the children presents. The presents are purchased by

Vice President & Treasurer

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mwilkerson@newfield.com

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RIMS members, but RIMS reimburses our membership for them (we have a budget per child). We hope that you are available for the party – it is an unforgettable experience and the children are so excited. Additional information regarding the party is available in the newsletter. If you are interested in shopping for a child, please contact Ginny Penzell at ginny.penzell@elpaso.com.

I hope you all have a very Happy Thanksgiving and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Best Regards,

Stéphanie Degrève Gaffron
Chapter President

Monthly Meeting Information

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

This month's meeting and luncheon is graciously sponsored and underwritten by
Wortham Insurance and Risk Management

"Mitigating Defense Costs"

Please join us for a discussion on "Mitigating Defenses Costs"; this session will examine three areas where an insurer or a self-insured entity can decrease defense costs without sacrificing representation or results: internal risk management; effective litigation management; and early resolution.

Amanda J. Mount, RN, BSN, JD, CPHRM is a Senior Vice President and the Health Care Practice Leader for the Houston area for Willis of Texas, Inc. She was previously with Western Litigation, Inc. as a claims attorney where she managed claims for a national emergency physician group. Amanda also gained hands on experience while with The Methodist Hospital System in the claims and litigation/risk management department, where she managed various hospital risks as well as had primary responsibility over The Methodist Hospital Physicians Organization, The Methodist Research Institute and the Graduate Medical Education program. She worked as an emergency room registered nurse prior to attending the University of Houston Law Center where she graduated in 2003. Amanda has been a member of and involved with the Greater Houston Society for Healthcare Risk Management since 2005. She has served as a Director and Vice President and is currently serving as President. She served on the education committee since joining and has been actively involved in the planning and organization of the annual education day and CPHRM course.

CHASTITI N. HORNE, JD pursued her education at Stephen F. Austin State University (B.A., 1993) and the South Texas College of Law (J.D., 1998). Her honors included the National Order of Barristers, National Champion, Evan A. Evans Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition, (1998). Chastiti has been an Adjunct Professor at the South Texas College of Law (1998-2010). She has

Advisors to the Board

Webmaster

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RIMS Chapter Meeting Dates for 2011

November 16, 2011
ARM Completers Recognition

December 8, 2011
Evening Meeting

Images of 2011 Fall Conference



been a featured speaker which include PESI, "Texas Nursing Home Negligence" (January 2003); ARC 2003 Healthcare Conference, "Documentation: Safe Passage in Healthcare" (June 2003); 22nd Annual Houston Perinatal Symposium, "How to Survive a Deposition: What You Wish You Had Documented" (February 2005); ARN 2005 Annual Expo & Seminar, "How to Survive a Deposition: What You Wish You Had Documented" (June 2005); GSHRM (Greater Houston Society for Healthcare Risk Management), "When the Hall of Justice Crumbles: The Nurse's Exposure to Criminal Liability and the Lawyer's Dilemma" (February 2006); GCAHQ (Gulf Coast Association for Healthcare Quality) (May 2006); Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston, "Guardian Ad Litem- Statutory Standards: Assessments, Procuring Special Services and Placements (May 2010). Chastiti is volunteer commitments include the Child Advocates, Inc.; Board of Directors (2001-2003), Justice for Children; Harris County Adult Volunteer of the Year 2001. She is a member: Houston Bar Foundation- Sustaining Fellow; Houston Bar Association; Defense Research Institute; Texas Association of Defense Counsel (Nominating Committee 2009); Greater Houston Society for Healthcare Risk Management; Texas Assisted Living Association; Long Term Care Committee and American Bar Association; also named Texas Rising Star- Super Lawyer, by Texas Monthly (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011); recognized in Time Magazine's Salute to Women in Leadership (August 2008).

Luncheon Meeting Place:

The Briar Club
2603 Timmons Lane
Houston, Texas 77027
Telephone: (713) 622-3667

Houston RIMS Chapter Fall Conference

Our Fall Conference was held in mid-October. It was a beautiful day, the educational sessions were excellent, and the networking opportunities were fantastic. Thank you to our sponsors, our speakers, our attendees, and the 2011 RIMS Board for this successful event.

Holiday Party at Creative Dreams Outreach Center

Every year the Houston Chapter of RIMS organizes a party for the children of a local non-profit organization. The organization we are sponsoring once again this year is **Creative Dreams Outreach Center, 2610 Ruth Ave., Stafford, TX 77477**. Creative Dreams is an organization for children, some who are mentally challenged, from very low income homes or are in the foster care system.

At the party, we organize age appropriate arts & crafts, have pizza, and offer the children presents. The presents are purchased by RIMS members, but RIMS reimburses our membership for them (we have a budget per child). We hope that you are available for the party – it is an unforgettable experience and the children are so excited.

If you are interested in shopping for a child, contact Ginny Penzell and she will be happy to match you up with a child(ren) to shop for



(Remember, you do the footwork but RIMS pays for the gifts!). If you are interested in helping with the party, contact Cindi Vickers.

Here is their contact info:

Ginny Penzell
 Ginny.Penzell@elpaso.com
 713-420-4814
 713-806-0343

Cindi Vickers
 Cynthia.Vickers@elpaso.com
 713-420-5078

The Holiday party will be **Saturday, December 10, 2011 from ~ 11:00am – 3pm.**

If you can not attend the party but still want to volunteer, you can still shop for a child. Call Ginny and she will figure out a way to get the gifts to the party.

Come join in on the fun and you will have a memorable experience that will last a lifetime.

2011 Annual Association of Fundraising Professionals National Philanthropy Awards

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) honored several University of Houston Downtown donors and volunteers at its annual National Philanthropy Day Awards Luncheon on November 2nd. Hosted at the Hilton Americas-Houston hotel, the event drew nearly 900 participants and honored outstanding philanthropy and fundraising by corporations, foundations, media, and volunteers. This year, UHD honored the donors and volunteers who supported the creation and provided the financial support for the development of an insurance and risk management (IRM) undergraduate degree program at UHD, one of only two programs in Texas. The program was launched in Fall 2009 and will produce six graduates this year.

University of Houston Downtown 2011 Outstanding Community Volunteers Honorees

- David VanDelinder - Independent Insurance Agents of Texas
- Bob Dean - Dean & Draper Insurance Agency
- Dennis Baker - Capstone Consulting Group
- Matt Sasso - CNA
- Tom Fitzpatrick - Chubb Group of Insurance Companies
- Stephanie Degreve Gaffron - Risk and Insurance Management Society
- Tom Braniff - Texas Insurance Consulting
- Fred de Roode - PPC Loan
- Bob Holloway - USI
- Fred Steves- Myron F. Steves & Company

2012 Proposed Slate of RIMS Houston Chapter Officers and Directors

Below is the proposed slate for the RIMS Houston Chapter for 2012. Thank you to Ella Andrews and Nancy Stucky for their help on the Nominating Committee so that we could arrive at this outstanding group of people to serve our chapter in 2012. These individuals will be recognized at our November meeting and voted on for confirmation by the membership at the December meeting.

| Position | Responsibility | Name |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| President | | Nick Kapatos |
| First Vice President | Program Director | John Lawson |
| Vice President | Secretary | Ella Andrews |
| Vice President | Treasurer | Michelle Wilkerson |
| Vice President | Asst. Secretary | Jo Anne Lancaster |
| Director | RIMS Delegate | Cindi Vickers |
| Director | Membership | Sondra Faul |
| Director | Chapter Liaison | Laura DeLeon |
| Director | Job Placement | Ginny Pinzell |
| Director | Past President | Stéphanie Degrève Gaffron |
| Advisor | Webmaster | Andrew Glisson |
| Advisor | Webmaster | Scott Bushnell |
| Director | Legislation | Nick Kapatos |
| Director | Public Relations / Newsletter | Julia Mercer |
| Director | Education | Tiffany Barnes |
| Associate Director | Asst. Education | Sharon Guillory |

Monthly Drawings for Evaluation Completion

Please remember to complete the speaker evaluation at each meeting and be placed in the drawing for the next meeting to win cash.



Image of Award Ceremony – Annual Association of Fundraising Professionals National Philanthropy Awards



Honoree Stephanie Degreve Gaffron, Risk Analyst for Swift Energy, is congratulated by UHD President William Flores. Ms. Gaffron was honored dually in her role as President of the Houston chapter of Risk and Insurance Management Society (RIMS), and for her personal involvement as a faculty member in the program. RIMS provided initial financial support to create the insurance and risk management degree program and continues to support the program with annual contributions.

NOTICE:

Effective January 1, 2008, the RIMS Society changed their method of collecting Local Chapter Dues. In the past there were two deputies included with the membership, then a charge for each additional deputy added. Under the new structure they will begin collecting chapter dues on a per deputy member basis. The new structure for the Houston Chapter Dues is \$55 per deputy member. The change will be reflected on the renewal invoice. The dues structure for associate membership has not changed.

Please see our Chapter Website for additional information:

WWW.RIMS.ORG/HOUSTON

or

WWW.RIMS.ORG – Chapters – Houston

Opportunity to Donate

We are looking our members to potential donate door prizes for the meetings. If you would like to donate, please contact any Board Member.

Welcome New Members

James Benham – SmartCompliance, Inc.

Andrew Chau – Rosetta Resource Inc.

National Membership Information

Please be advised that with the economic conditions and the number of layoffs that has occurred, RIMS National has announced that the Deputy memberships will not be automatically terminated for up to six months for those members that have been laid off. Please notify the National Membership office if a layoff has occurred.

Job Postings

National RIMS Postings – Texas:

Workers Compensation Supervisor
Program Specialist V
Risk Intern
Assistant Director of Risk Management
Insurance Analyst

Houston Area – Local Chapter Postings:

CB&I - Risk Manager
ConocoPhillips - Insurance Analyst

Austin Area – Local Chapter Posting:

Claims Department Manager

Dallas Area – Local Chapter Posting:

Associate Claims and Risk Specialist
Assistant Risk Manager

**Educational and
Associations Websites:**

**American Institute for CPCU
and Insurance Institute of
America www.aicpcu.org**

**Charter Property Casualty
Underwriters Society
www.cpcusociety.org**

**Institutional Risk
Management Institute
www.irmi.org**

**The National Alliance
www.scic.com**

**Construction Risk and
Insurance Specialist
www.cris-ce.com**

**For further Educational
Opportunities Forms or
Information, please visit the
Chapter website at:**

<http://houston.rims.org/ChapterWebsite/RIMSChapter.cfm?CID=328>

**Please see the Local Chapter
website and the RIMS.org
Jobs Listing for details.**

Published by the Houston Chapter of
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Society

Names Badges

Please be advised that the colors of the badges have meaning.

Green – Board Members

Blue – Deputy Members

Yellow – Associate Members

Light Purple – Committee Members and Volunteers

Please contact Cynthia Vickers (cynthia.vickers@el Paso.com) if you need any changes to your badge.

Monthly Luncheon Meeting Place

**The Briar Club
2603 Timmons Lane
Houston, Texas 77027
Telephone: (713) 622-3667
Every Third Wednesday unless otherwise announced
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

