



# THE AWARD WINNING HOUSTON CHAPTER

## Chapter of Distinction

### Outstanding Chapter Programming

### Outstanding Chapter Member Services

## February 2010

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### *FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT...*

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In January, we had a great turnout of 105 guests for the first meeting of 2010! If you were not there, you missed a great presentation from Jack Carnegie at Jones Day on Recent Insurance Developments in the Texas Supreme Court.

This month's meeting is presented by SABER Risk Solutions, LLC: with speakers Roy E. Collins and Keith Wright. The program will be on *Rethinking Your Risk Information*.

Additionally, the program has been submitted to get approval for continuing education credit toward all general insurance lines as approved by the State of Texas Department of Insurance. We hope that you can attend.

I know it's only February but, if you haven't already, be sure and register for the Risk and Insurance Management Society's 2010 Annual Conference and Exhibition in Boston the week of April 25<sup>th</sup>. It promises to be an exciting program full of great workshops, exhibits, and many networking opportunities. Early Bird Registration ends February 26<sup>th</sup>. You can register and find all the information you need on the Conference at [www.rims.org](http://www.rims.org).

Don't forget to put our local Fall Conference into your calendar for October 22, 2010. More details to come later.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting this month.

*Victor Pivetta*  
*Chapter President*

## 2010 Houston Chapter Board Members and Advisors

### **President**

Victor Pivetta, ARM  
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Pivetta@msn.com

### **First Vice President**

Stephanie Degreve  
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### **Vice President /Treasurer**

Michelle Wilkerson  
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### **Vice President/Secretary**

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### **Vice President/Asst. Secretary**

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### **Education**

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### **Associate Director/Education**

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## February Meeting Topic and Speaker

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Wednesday, February 17, 2010  
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

**Topic:** Recent Insurance Developments in the Texas Supreme Court

**Speakers:** Roy E. Collins, Co-Founder, SABER Risk Solutions, LLC  
Keith Wright, Co-Founder, SABER Risk Solutions, LLC



Today's discussion will focus upon:

1. Developing a sustainable data management strategy,
2. What tools and resources are available, and,
3. Utilizing "actionable information" to improve performance.

This program has been submitted for continuing education credit toward all general insurance lines as approved by the State of Texas Department of Insurance

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## Welcome New/Renewed Members

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Mike Behan-Broadspire  
Bradford "Bart" Jealous Jr-American Appraisal  
Richard A. Hamilton-Spectra Energy Corp  
Sarah Winchester Thornton-Student

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## SLSOT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Congratulations to the members of our Houston RIMS Chapter board who have been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Surplus Lines Stamping Office of Texas.

*Contributed by SLSOT Lone Star Lines quarterly newsletter*

Tiffany Barnes  
Rain CII Carbon, LLC  
sguillory@raincii.com

#### Legislation

Nikolas G. Kapatos  
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#### RIMS Delegate

Ella Andrews  
Friedkin Companies, Inc  
eandrews@friedkin.com

#### Past President

Nancy Stucky  
The Mitchell Family Corporation  
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#### Advisors to the Board

Jim Drew, ARM (**ARM Instructor**)  
Bowen Miclette and Britt, LLC  
jdrew@bmbinc.com

Julia Mercer  
PSC, LLC  
jdmercer@pscnow.com

Ginny Penzell, ARM  
El Paso Corporation  
ginny.penzell@elpaso.com

Shawn Pickens, CPA (**Web Master**)  
sppickens@earthlink.net

### Meeting Dates for 2010

**January 20, 2010**

**February 17, 2010**

**March 16, 2010  
Joint CPCU Meeting  
(RIMS Hosting)**

**April TBA 2010  
Broker/Service Provider  
Appreciation Social**

Commissioner Mike Geeslin has named Susan Gropp, Senior Vice President, Acrana Insurance Service, LP and Lana Parks, CPCU, President, The Parks Group as industry members and **Nancy Stucky, Risk Manager, The Mitchell Family Corp. as a public member.**

Each director will serve a 3-year term. Congratulations to the new appointees...we look forward to their participation on our Board!

Other members of the SLSOT Board of Directors include Phillip B. Dendy, Director, Risk Management, The University of Texas System; Gilbert C. Hine, Jr. CPCU, President, McClelland and Hine, Inc.; James Huckaby ARM-P, Director of Risk Management, Mesquite Independent School District; **Nikolas G. Kapatos, Sr. Vice President Sterling Bancshares, Inc.**; Len Kaplan, CPA, CIC, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Delta General Agency Corporation; and William G. (Bill) Reynolds, President, Atlantic Casualty Insurance Company.

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## UH-Downtown Insurance and Risk Management Program Update

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### *UH-Downtown Rapidly Expanding Insurance and Risk Management*

*(Contributed by Wendy Braniff)*

The University of Houston Downtown's Insurance and Risk Management degree program is rapidly experiencing success in recruiting students, obtaining qualified faculty and expanding its curriculum to become one of the fastest-growing programs in the country. With the support and financial backing of its industry-based Advisory Council and other industry professionals, companies, and associations including the **Houston Chapter - RIMS** the Insurance and Risk Management Center has made the critical curriculum development decision to incorporate the learning objectives and use

April 25-29, 2010  
48<sup>th</sup> Annual RIMS Conf.  
Boston Massachusetts

May 19, 2010  
Staff/Volunteer  
Appreciation Day

The Houston Chapter  
RIMS mailing address is

5090 Richmond Ave. #86  
Houston, TX 77056-7402

**NOTICE:**

Effective January 1, 2008, the RIMS Society has 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

texts developed for three of the premier insurance industry professional designations: Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter (CPCU), Certified Risk Manager (CRM), Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU), Registered Health Underwriter (RHU), and Registered Employee Benefits Counselor (REBC).

Students now have the capability of earning a Bachelor in Business Administration degree with an Insurance and Risk Management major while also completing all eight courses for the CPCU commercial concentration, the five core courses for the CLU, or the two courses required for the University Associate CRM designations. Students who do not complete the coursework for a professional designation while earning their degree can complete the requirements after graduation when employed in the industry.

Now in its second semester, the program continues to offer its Introduction to Risk and Insurance (CPCU 510 and Fundamentals CRM course) taught by **Dr. Wendall Braniff**, JD and **Bob Holloway**, CIC, CPIA and Insurance Operations (CPCU 520) taught this spring by **Kelly A. Bluhm**, MA, CPCU, ARM, CRIS. This semester, courses have been added in Life and Health Insurance (CLU 311) taught by **Naomi J. Hall**, MS; CEBS, RHU, and Legal and Political Aspects of IRM (CPCU 530 and CLU 523) taught by **Dr. Tom Braniff**, JD, CPCU. Next fall, **Stéphanie Degréve**, MBA, CRM, will teach Risk Management Theory and Practice, a capstone course that will use exercises and projects to incorporate student's learning into practical experiences.

"UHD's incorporation of designation materials and courses into its curriculum is evidence of the value we place on the historical importance and status of professional designations in the insurance and risk management industry," Dr. Braniff stated.

"Our goal is to develop a nationally-recognized insurance and risk management degree program as a resource for the Houston and Gulf Coast insurance and risk management industry," commented College of Business Dean Donald Bates. "We think that this program is a

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](http://WWW.RIMS.ORG/HOUSTON)

or

[WWW.RIMS.ORG](http://WWW.RIMS.ORG) – Chapters – Houston



- Nancy Stucky, RIMS President presents \$20,000 award to Dr. Wendall Braniff, IRM Center Director and students Adrian Hopkins, Scott Long, and Isabel Vaquera and Mary Sias, IRM Office Administrator

good match for UHD's more mature, career-oriented student population."

The program has been fortunate to enjoy the support of many local insurance professionals. In addition to the continued support of its Founders who contributed the start-up operating funds, the Center has received additional support for the 2009-2010 academic year from **Houston RIMS, Liberty Mutual, Myron F. Steves & Co., Capstone Consulting Group, Bob Holloway, CNA Foundation, D. Fred de Roode, Dean & Draper Insurance Agency, LLP, Pozmantier Insurance Consulting Services, State Farm, Hotchkiss Insurance Agency, LLC, and the Insurance Council of Texas.**

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## CPCU Spring Class

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***CPCU 520: Insurance Company Operations, Regulation, and Statutory Accounting***

***(Contributed by: Elizabeth Gillespie)***

The Houston Chapter of CPCU is offering classes starting February 24, 2010.

\*\*\*See the flyer which is part of the email you received for more details.

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## Sponsorship of Energy Resources, Oil & Gas at RIMS National Meeting

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The Houston Chapter is happy to announce that we will be sponsoring the Energy Resources, Oil & Gas Session at the RIMS National meeting in April.

The speakers and coordinator is as follows:

Speaker & Coordinator

Gabriel Lugo, Taylor Risk Consulting, Senior Vice President

Speaker

Michael Amador, TOTAL American Services, Inc. Risk Manager

This session will assist energy risk managers and industry professionals in solving complex issues affecting the industry and energy risk managers. Part of the session will be devoted to discussing your issues, so bring your questions.

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## Creative Dreams Fundraiser

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*Creative Dreams to host its Fifth Annual Celebration Concert and Fundraiser on February 26*

*(Contributed by Jackie Stouffer)*

*\*\*Creative Dreams is the group that the Houston Chapter of RIMS & CPCU had the privilege of sponsoring during the Christmas Holidays. Below is a letter from the director of Creative Dreams.*

January 28, 2010

Dear Friends of Creative Dreams,

### **Educational and Associations Websites:**

**American Institute for CPCU and Insurance Institute of America** [www.aicpcu.org](http://www.aicpcu.org)

**Charter Property Casualty Underwriters Society** [www.cpcusociety.org](http://www.cpcusociety.org)

**Institutional Risk Management Institute** [www.irmi.org](http://www.irmi.org)

**The National Alliance** [www.scic.com](http://www.scic.com)

**Construction Risk and  
Insurance Specialist**  
[www.cris-ce.com](http://www.cris-ce.com)

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

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

I am writing to invite you to our **Fifth Annual Celebration Concert and Fundraiser on February 26, "A Story of Hope"** which flows from my goal for 2010 of helping each participant to begin now, to write **"A Story of Hope"** for their lives. I am very excited about this year's event. God has been at work at Creative Dreams in such a big way this year. Not only have the number of kids and families we serve tripled, but also He has brought some great volunteers our way. For the past two years I have been praying for an assistant, and God has answered this prayer by bringing Kalette Krampitz to us. Now, we are hoping and praying for the funds to provide her with a salary.

This year, **Robbie Seay Band** will be our special guest. The concert will once again be held in the worship center at River Pointe. The celebration will include both a silent and live auction and Mary Jane's Café will provide snacks and coffee. The silent auction items will be on display in the lobby of the worship center and the live auction will occur during the intermission of the Robbie Seay concert.

As always, it is very important to me that those who attend the celebration have the opportunity to meet the participants of Creative Dreams. So, the Creative Kids will be the opening act for the concert. I can't wait for you to see them showcase their talents. Our theme this year is **"A Story of Hope"** which flows from my goal for 2010 of helping each participant to begin now to write **"A Story of Hope"** for their lives.

The celebration will be held on February 26, and tickets are being sold through [www.ticketsevant.com](http://www.ticketsevant.com) go sale on Friday, February 5. Tickets are \$25 each or \$20 each for a group of five or more and seating is general admission. Doors open at 6:00 and the show will begin at 7:00. During the 6:00-7:00 hour people will be encouraged to take part in the silent auction, purchase crafts made by the Creative Kids or grab something to eat or drink from Mary Jane's Café.

Another really exciting opportunity has come Creative Dreams' way. I

was approached about purchasing an acre of land with two perfect buildings for Creative Dreams. I've always known that we would need to purchase our own property at some point. This property is in a great location, needs only a little work, and we would have twice as much room as we have now. I am prayerfully considering if this is God's will and perfect timing for Creative Dreams. Please pray along with me. More information will be forthcoming at the Celebration.

Please make plans to join us for this fun filled evening! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call, 281-261-0814. As always, I am grateful for your support. Please join me in prayer for this event, that it honors God and that He gets all the glory for the "**Stories of Hope**" being written at Creative Dreams Outreach Center.

Gratefully,

Jackie Stouffer

Director, Creative Dreams Outreach Center

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

[jackies@creativedoc.org](mailto:jackies@creativedoc.org)

[Please see the Local Chapter website and the RIMS.org Jobs Listing for details.](#)

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## AIR Worldwide to Host a Risk Assessment & Mitigation Seminar

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***AIR Worldwide is hosting a Complimentary Hurricane and Severe Thunderstorm Risk Assessment and Mitigation***

We would like to extend an invitation to the members of the Houston RIMS chapter to attend our Hurricane and Severe Thunderstorm Risk Assessment on Tuesday February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The focus of the seminar is on risk assessment and mitigation for industrial, manufacturing, and



commercial facilities. Dr. Akshay Gupta will be discussing how detailed structural evaluations, network modeling, and AIR's state-of-the-art hazard modeling are collectively being used by leading corporations to assess and mitigate their natural catastrophe risk, allowing them to make informed business decisions.

\*\*\*See the flyer which is part of the email you received for more details.

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## National RIMS Conference 2010

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Registration for **RIMS 2010 Annual Conference & Exhibition**, April 25-29 in Boston, Massachusetts at the [Boston Convention & Exhibition Center](#) opened Monday, November 9, 2009!

Here is some key information on RIMS 2010 to keep you and your chapter members connected:

November 9, 2009: Registration Opens  
February 26, 2010: Early Bird Registration Cut-off  
March 26, 2010: Registration Cut-off

To register visit [www.RIMS.org/RIMS2010](http://www.RIMS.org/RIMS2010). Registration fees for RIMS 2010 are listed below.

	<u>Early Bird</u> Through 2/26/2009	<u>Regular</u> Through 3/26/2009	<u>On-Site</u>
<b><u>Member</u></b>			
Full Conference Pass	\$ 850.00	\$ 960.00	\$ 1,100.00
Corporate 3rd Member	\$ 600.00	\$ 675.00	\$ 775.00
One Day Pass	\$ 400.00	\$ 455.00	\$ 500.00
<b><u>Non-Member</u></b>			
Full Conference Pass	\$ 1,175.00	\$ 1,285.00	\$ 1,425.00
One Day Pass	\$ 475.00	\$ 525.00	\$ 575.00
<b>Affiliate Member</b>	\$ 360.00	\$ 360.00	\$ 360.00
<b>Retired Member</b>	\$ 360.00	\$ 360.00	\$ 360.00
<b>Educational Member</b>	\$ 360.00	\$ 360.00	\$ 360.00
<b>Student Member</b>	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
<b>Student Non-Member</b>	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00

Don't forget to [book your housing](#) now for the most availability at the best rates!

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## 2009 - 2010 Houston Chapter Membership Directories

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The 2009 - 2010 Houston Chapter Membership Directories are available. The directory may be picked up at the monthly meetings.

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## Memberships - National

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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.

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## Professional Development - National

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**Errors and Omissions (E&O) and Professional Liability (NY)**

*February 22-23, New York, NY*

**How to Conduct a High Quality Risk Assessment**

*March 1-26, Online Course*

**Enterprise Risk Management for the Advanced Practitioner (GA)**

*March 1-2, Atlanta, GA*

**Claims Management**

*March 4-5, Fort Lauderdale, FL*

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## Professional Development - CPCU

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***The Institutes Announce Changes to the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU®) Program***

*Responding to the needs of the property-casualty industry, and our students, the Institutes are pleased to announce the following changes to enhance the CPCU program:*

▶ *Examinations for CPCU 520, CPCU 530, and CPCU 540 will change to objective format beginning in January 2010.*

▶ *The Experience Requirement is decreasing from three years to two*

*years, effective immediately.*

### Examination Changes

Exams for the following courses will change from short essay to objective format (like CPCU 553 and CPCU 557 exams) beginning with the January 15 – March 15, 2010, testing window:

CPCU 520—Insurance Operations, Regulation, and Statutory Accounting

CPCU 530—The Legal Environment of Insurance

CPCU 540—Finance for Risk Management and Insurance Professionals

These exams will consist of 85 to 100 questions. Time allotted to complete these exams will be 3 hours, just like other CPCU exams.

There are numerous student benefits to the objective exam format:

- Wider Content Coverage. Having more questions (85 to 100 rather than 30 to 35) provides greater opportunity to demonstrate knowledge of the material.
- Faster Grading. Objective grading greatly reduces the waiting period for grades, allowing students to progress more efficiently through the CPCU program.
- Better Feedback. The Institutes can provide consistent and timely exam performance feedback to help non-passers better prepare to retake an exam.
- Higher Quality Questions. The Institutes are able to pre-test questions, which helps to ensure that the questions appearing on your exam are clear and accurate.

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## Job Postings

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### **Houston Area – Local Chapter Posting:**

Sr. Claims Analyst

Sr. Risk Manager

Risk Manager

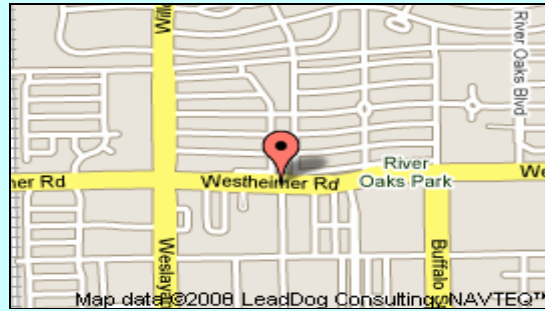
\*\*See the website for details

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## Monthly Luncheon Meeting Place

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



**Directions to The Briar Club**

The Briar Club is located at 2603 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX 77027. It is on the corner of Westheimer and Timmons Lane between the north - south streets of Edloe and Wesleyan.

**Border Streets**

Between Wesleyan and Buffalo Speedway (N-S) and West Alabama and Westheimer (E-W)  
» East of Galleria towards downtown  
» West of Kirby and Shepherd

**From George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH)**

Go South on US-59/Eastex Freeway  
Exit Buffalo Speedway and turn RIGHT/North  
Turn LEFT on Westheimer  
Turn LEFT on Timmons Lane @ WhataBurger

**From William P. Hobby Airport (HOU)**

Go North on I-45/Gulf Freeway  
Exit US-59 South toward Victoria  
Exit at Buffalo Speedway and turn RIGHT/North  
Turn LEFT on Westheimer  
Turn LEFT on Timmons Lane @ WhataBurger

**From Sugar Land**

Go North on US-59/Eastex Freeway  
Exit at Buffalo Speedway and turn LEFT under the Freeway  
Turn LEFT on Westheimer  
Turn LEFT on Timmons Lane @ WhataBurger

**From 290/Northwest**

Go East on 290/Northwest Freeway  
Take 610 South  
Exit at Westheimer and turn LEFT under the Freeway  
Turn RIGHT on Timmons Lane @ WhataBurger

**From Katy**

Go East on I-10 (Katy Freeway)  
Take 610 South  
Exit at Westheimer and turn LEFT under the Freeway  
Turn RIGHT on Timmons Lane @ WhataBurger

**From Kingwood**

Go South on US-59/Eastex Freeway  
Exit at Buffalo Speedway and turn RIGHT/North  
To Westheimer  
turn LEFT on Timmons Lane @ Whataburger