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chapter administrator

For assistance, information or feedback, please contact Chapter Administrator, **Melanie Batcheller**, at 407-277-8383 or at: melanie@fei-centralflorida.org.

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president's letter



To Our Central Florida Members, Sponsors and Friends:

Welcome to our new chapter year! While our economy faces uncertain times, our chapter remains steadfast as your connection to the leading association for senior financial executives. We have notable events and programs in store for you in the coming year.

Our speaker this month is **Cyril Doucet**, *Vice President of Operations & Administration* at the **Burnham Institute for Medical Research at Lake Nona**. The *Burnham Institute for Medical Research* ranks 4th in the nation among all private research institutes in terms of the National Institutes of Health funding. Please join me in welcoming Mike Eggett into the role of Program Chair, who is working very hard to provide us with some great programs this year.

Enjoy the evening with our September Gold Sponsor, **Jason Johnson of Merrill Lynch**. A special thanks to Jason who is also sponsoring the cocktail hour for September's program.

It is with great pride, on behalf of the Central Florida Board, to share with you we are again a winner of the *FEI Annual Award for Outstanding*
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upcoming events of note

our next monthly meeting

• **September 4th, 2008 6:00 p.m.**

Chapter Dinner Meeting

Cyril Doucet, *Vice President of Operations & Administration*
Burnham Institute for Medical Research at Lake Nona
dinner and cocktails sponsored by Merrill Lynch



save these dates!

• **October Dinner Meeting — October 2nd**

Doug Sullivan, *President and CEO of Stonewood Holdings LLC*
(Stonewood Grill)

sponsored by Grant Thorton LLP

dinner meetings are held at the
Grand Bohemian Hotel

325 S. Orange Avenue, Orlando, Telephone: 407.313.9000

platinum partner



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standing Chapter Achievement. In fact, we have earned an outstanding chapter achievement award for five out of the last six years in our chapter's history. FEI National has created a special logo to honor those who have earned this award, so you'll be seeing this distinction on our letterhead, brochures and communications.

On behalf of all of the Central Florida Board members, our grateful acknowledgment to all for your continued support and participation in our Central Florida FEI chapter!

Warm Regards,

Debbie

Deborah S. Adkins
President – FEI Central Florida Chapter 2008/2009

september 4th dinner meeting speaker—Cyril Doucet of The Burnham Institute

Cyril Doucet is Vice President, Operations and Administration for Burnham at Lake Nona in Orlando, Florida. He is responsible for management of Burnham's growing operations in Orlando as the institute prepares to move from temporary facilities to their permanent Florida campus at Lake Nona in 2009.

Prior to joining the Institute, Cyril served as the Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary-Treasurer at the Trudeau Institute in Saranac Lake, New York. Earlier in his career, Mr. Doucet held positions as Assistant to the Senior Vice President of Laboratories at the National Research Council in Ottawa, Canada, and Vice President, Administration and Secretary-Treasurer at the Paper Research Institute of Canada in Montreal. Mr. Doucet received a B.S. from the University of Montreal, an M.S. from the University of Waterloo and an MBA from the Richard Ivey School of Business, at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario.

Burnham Institute for Medical Research conducts world-class collaborative research dedicated to finding cures for human disease, improving quality of life, and thus creating a legacy for its employees, donors, and community.

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Chapter President
Cross, Fernandez & Riley, LLP
- **Mike Eggett**
Vice President—Programs
PCE Companies
- **Jim Bria**
Chapter Treasurer
The Trane Company—Orlando

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sponsor's article

Economy Pressures Accountants' Optimism. Should It?

Article courtesy of Robert Half International - edited for space

by Dona DeZube - August 13, 2008

A shaky global economy, rising oil prices and falling home values have cut into the optimism that accounting and finance professionals typically report when asked about their employment prospects.

More than half of those recently surveyed for the Mergis Group's Accounting and Finance Employee Confidence Index believe there were fewer jobs available at mid-year 2008 than in previous quarters.

Is their perception accurate? Maybe. Factors such as the global economy, the potential for the U.S. to move toward International Financial Accounting Standards, and changes in the overall number of people employed in accounting can influence the professional's future growth. However, the index reflects the personal experiences of its over 300 respondents, not macroeconomic factors. "It's driven by what peo-

internship opportunities

The Academic Committee sponsors an internship program for interested sponsors and members with local universities. This is primarily a summer internship program but could vary depending on the needs of the sponsoring company. We strive to provide top students to local companies in an effort to create an on-going pipeline of talented new employees in a difficult recruiting market.

Previous sponsors include Disney, Siemens, C/F/R (Cross, Fernandez & Riley), Protiviti, Hubbard Construction Company, and Brown and Brown Insurance. Area universities participating include Stetson University, Rollins College, University of Central Florida, Bethune-Cookman University, and Florida Institute of Technology.

We have adjusted the timing of the program this year in order to accommodate our sponsoring companies better. Our goal is to expedite the process so that interviewing and selection of intern candidates will occur in November and December. In order to accomplish this goal, **we need company sponsors to provide job descriptions and qualifications to me by October 6, 2008.**

The success of this program depends on the support and active participation of chapter members and sponsors, so please consider participating. Contact me (via e-mail or phone) with any questions you may have.

FEI Academic Committee

Karen Lane (Karen.lane@siemens.com / (407)736-3996)

sponsor news

A big thank you to all of our sponsors that have renewed. Your support is what's allowed us to do great things in our chapter and helped us become an FEI National Outstanding Chapter for five years.

To sponsors that haven't taken the time to renew, please remember all the advantages that an FEI sponsorship provides and take a few moments to renew. Doing so soon will allow your firm to appear in our membership directory, along with your advertisement. We have a number of firms that have expressed an interest in moving up a level in sponsorship support.

If you are one of those or you have any further questions, please contact Renato Carrasco rcarrasco@cfl.rr.com or Stuart Michelson smichels@stetson.edu

See you at the next monthly meeting!

(Continued from page 3)

ple hear in the media about high gas, oil and energy prices, a declining housing market and the credit crunch," says Aaron Brooks, the Mergis Group's Chicago managing director.

Personal worries seep into the Mergis survey, sometimes creating a mismatch between what respondents believe is happening in the job market and actual conditions. "The fact is there are still opportunities for accounting and financial professionals," Brooks states. "Unemployment in the skilled worker segment is sitting at around 2 percent."

Even as some companies lay off finance and accounting professionals, others are growing - and therefore hiring, adds Kathy Downs, a recruiting manager with Robert Half Finance & Accounting in Orlando.

Downs suspects the Mergis data may reflect a fear of job hunting. "People may be afraid of hitting the streets to find a new job if they're restructured," she observes. "Or, they may be worried because their skills aren't up to date and they're not as competitive as people who've kept up their IT or technical accounting skills."

To ease those anxieties, keep your CPA license active, Downs suggests. If you're a lapsed CPA, get re-licensed. "If your Excel skills are not top notch, take some classes," she adds. "Subscribe to professional journals so you know about issues like the SEC's position on IFRS and how it will impact you."

check out FEI TV!

FEI TV is the Internet Television Network of Financial Executives International. It provides best practices, case studies and corporate financial management research to CFOs, treasurers, controllers and senior financial executives.

Tune in to hear topics like:

- IFRS from RSM McGladrey
- Audit Committee Assessments from The Board Institute, Inc.
- FAS 159—Fair Value Options from Grant Thornton

Check out the FEI TV website for more information:



dinner meeting menus

Some of the best food you'll have at any meeting...

September 2008

- **Tomato Carpaccio** with contemporary mista salad Feta cheese, pea shoots, pistachios, red wine vinaigrette
- **Fennel & Coriander seared salmon rouladen** with rock crab stuffing, brocolinni, preserved lemon, pinot noir butter
- **Citrus panna cotta** with raspberry jus

October 2008

- **Shrimp & Asian Pear salad** spinach and arugula, serrano ham, roasted pineapple vinaigrette, spiced hazelnuts in pistachio oil
- **Lobster ravioli with sherried lobster sauce**, pancetta, chantrel mushrooms, watercress
- **Strawberry Rhubarb shortcake**, vanilla scented genoise, fresh berry compote, sweet basil syrup, chantilly cream

new members 2008-2009

Central Florida continues to be one of the fastest growing chapters in its class. Look for this year's new members at the monthly dinner and introduce yourself. New members have blue name tags.

- **Wendy Wolfswinkel**
CFO
Family Services of Metro Orlando
- **Devon Lewis**
Controller
Wharton-Smith Inc.

challenge from the committee

We had a great membership rally, with over 50 members, sponsors and prospective members in attendance. This is a great start and we extend our thanks to all of those individuals who have helped with the recruiting efforts thus far. Our chapter has been distinguished on several different occasions as an Outstanding Chapter and a role model for other chapters.

As an Outstanding Chapter, we need *everyone* to participate, not just the Membership Committee. We challenge each member and sponsor to give the Membership Committee the contact information for at least one prospective member. With 130 members and 60 sponsors, the Membership Committee would have over 190 prospects to chase down before the fiscal year ends.

All we are asking is one prospect from each individual. History has taught us that contacts of existing members and sponsors is the best source of new members. If you provide the names, the Membership Committee will provide the follow-up.

Contact us at michael.duncan@wyndhamvo.com or smichels@stetson.edu

Thank you in advance for helping us become the top FEI chapter in the country.

September 23 | Renaissance Chicago O'Hare Hotel

Private companies represent half of FEI's membership and have unique issues and demands... You must be an expert in many corporate disciplines - HR, technology, and international issues...

This executive seminar addresses the diverse information needs of the private company financial executive. Topics include:

- Election 2008: Tax Implications for Private Companies
- Taking Control of Your 401k
- Strategies for Becoming a Corporate Director
- IFRS vs GAAP: What Are The Key Differences
- And more!

Plan to be there...

