

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2002

We have had an unbelievable year for the Atlanta Chapter of IFMA! Winning the Foundation Award of Excellence, the Professional Development Award of Excellence, and having one of our own, Christine Neldon, CFM, IFMA Fellow, take home the Distinguished Author Award of Excellence, exemplifies the dynamic individuals that make our Chapter truly special. I am honored to lead us into the next year and to help us continue along our path of excellence. Our strategic initiatives for 2002 are to broaden and enhance member services, promote the Georgia Tech relationship to help develop the profession's future and sustenance, and to encourage membership involvement at local and international levels. It is my sincere desire for you to get the most out of your IFMA membership. Your involvement is the key to your success. With that in mind, our Chapter slogan for the year is "Get Connected".

In order to plan for our success in 2002, your Board attended a strategic planning retreat at the Chattanooga Hotel in Chattanooga, TN. The retreat was hosted by Mark Erba and Collins & Aikman. We were addressed by Olympic Gold Medalist, Joe Jacobi, who set the tone for our meeting by relating his international quest for gold to our quest for excellence in our international organization. The Board had a busy and productive couple of days at the retreat. The goals that were set should help our membership "Get Connected" better on a local, national, and international level. A full copy of our strategic plan is available for your review by contacting Vernon Thomas at Association Headquarters. I want to let you know that your Board is hard working and gets a lot of personal joy and satisfaction out of the time we invest together. In order for you to get the full value out of your IFMA membership, we encourage you to become involved with a committee, join a council, attend World Workplace in Toronto or World Workplace Europe in Paris this year.

In closing, I want to tell you a story of how a few of your Board members finalized our Board retreat experience in going for optional IFMA extra credit by rafting the Ocoee in a team building session. Ken Gwinner, Tom Haslach, Beth Chaplin, Andrea Bruschi, and Mark Erba were persuaded by me that this would be a great experience and that with the right gear, the mountain water in Tennessee really doesn't feel that cold in November. A class four rapid has an element of risk that we were comforted by a great guide and the presence of Joe Jacobi, who had won his Olympic gold medal in a canoe. Tom and I were fittingly partners in the bow of our raft. The rest of the crew took great pleasure in learning how to "surf" the raft upstream which results in copious quantities of water flying over the bow into the faces of the bow riders making it nearly impossible to breathe. I'll never forget the look on Tom's face as the crew demanded we go back up the river to "surf" that spot for the fifth time. We managed our survival by listening to our guide and doing everything possible to remain in the raft. There were a couple of occasions where we had "man overboard" or "lady overboard" as the case may be, but we would "Get Connected" with each other through a series of hand holds, arm grabs, or leg grabs so we never had to resort to the life line. The final rapid, appropriately named "Surprise", sent Tom across the bow of the raft like a cannon ball aimed straight at me. I was able to maintain my position of "connection" to the raft by a foothold and the help of a leg grab. As Tom went under and was about to be swept downstream, my pinky finger found a strap on his life jacket and directed him to the side of the raft where the crew brought him aboard. I knew that if we lost Tom, we would all be in for a lot more work than we had bargained for this year! The moral of this story is: "Take a Risk" . . . "Get Connected" . . . "Get Onboard"

We are going to have a great year!

Dave Flory,
President, IFMA Atlanta

IFMA Atlanta Recognizes Members For Efforts in 2001

IFMA Atlanta recognized several of its members at the December Holiday Award Luncheon. The following members were recognized for their efforts and contributions to the chapter:

- Outstanding CFM: **Harriet Whelihan** - *United Parcel Service*
Distinguished Member: **Tom Haslach** - *Millicare Environmental Services*
Achievement in Facilities Management: **Steve Wilson** - *Alston Bird LLP*
Outstanding Associate: **Mark Erba** - *Milliken Hospitality*
Individual Special Recognition Awards:
Bill Atchison - *Contract Marketing*
Fran Rissland - *A.R.T. Associates*
Bob Thomas, Vernon Thomas, Mitzi Thomas,
Lisa Abel - *Association Headquarters*



October's Fall Classic and December's Holiday Awards Luncheon close out a great year of achievement, recognition and fun for IFMA.

Luncheon and Program Calendar 2002:

March 20, 2002

YWCA 100 Year Celebration

IFMA Atlanta Vendor Fair

Location: The Park Tavern/Atlanta

April 17, 2002

Speaker: DBAssociates

Topic: Web-based Benchmarking

Core Competency: Quality Assessment and Innovation

Location: Villa Christina

May 15, 2002

Speaker: Joyce LaValle/Jim Hartsfield

Topic: All you need to know about LEED

Core Competency: Human and Environmental Factors

Location: Loudermilk Center

June 19, 2002

Speaker: Alysia Foster

Topic: Strategic Communication: Up/Down/Across the Organization

Core Competency: Communication

Location: Maggiano's

July 17, 2002

Topic: "Who wants to be a CFM?"

(Professional Development committee)

Location: Villa Christina

August 21, 2002

Speaker: Ed Rondeau

Topic: How Corporate Real Estate is Responding to Business Trends?

Core Competency: Real Estate/Finance

Location: Loudermilk Center

September 18, 2002

Speaker: Ken Gwinner

Topic: Turner's Techwood Campus - development (Project Management at Turner)

Core Competency: Planning and project management/ Facility Function

Location: Maggiano's

Steve Wilson of Alston & Bird Awarded 2001 IFMA Atlanta Professional of the Year

At December's IFMA Atlanta Award Luncheon, Steve Wilson of Alston & Bird was recognized as the 2001 Professional of the Year. We thought we'd get to know Steve better so we asked him to share a little bit about himself in an interview conducted by Cindy Odishoo with Millicare Environmental Services. Here's what we found out:

Steve, along with his wife of 19 years, JoAnn, and their two sons, Jason, 16, and Bryan, 12, moved to Atlanta from Dallas, Texas, where Steve worked for Texas Instruments. He and his family currently live in Suwanee, where they have been for the past five years, while Steve has held the position of Facilities Manager at Alston & Bird for the past two years.

Steve grew up in Washington, D.C. and then attended Florida State University earning an impressive three degrees in Finance, Real Estate, and Risk Management. When he is not working on his professional home at Alston & Bird, Steve enjoys his hobby of home improvement, currently working on a project to finish out his basement! Presumably to enjoy his other favorite past time, college football, specifically, you guess it, Seminole Football!

"If I had it to over again", Steve says, "I would choose facilities management as a career." Enjoying the exposure to many people, as well as the unpredictable nature of his profession, Steve finds that he is never bored with his career! Introduced to IFMA by Past President, Lannie Felder in the 1980's, Steve feels as though IFMA offers him great informational support, and extensive networking opportunities.

Congratulations, Steve Wilson, on being named IFMA Atlanta's 2001 Professional of the Year!

Mark Erba recognized as IFMA Atlanta's 2001 Associate of the Year

At December's Award Luncheon, Associate Member, Mark Erba was named the 2001 Associate of the Year in recognition of his service to IFMA Atlanta. In an interview conducted by Smed's Laura Boone, we found out some of the personal side of Mark:

Mark has lived in Atlanta since 1988 when he accepted a job transfer from Seattle, Washington. His career in sales and marketing started in New York City after he attended Boston College, graduating with a degree in Economics in 1981 (as well as a brief stint touring the United States in a rental car for a couple of months). Mark explains, "Knowing I would be pursuing a career in sales and marketing, I thought I'd better explore the country so I knew where I was going!"

Currently living in the Little 5 Points/Inman Park area, Mark has always lived in town since he settled in Atlanta. "I'm a live in the city, escape to nature person", he says. Mark is a proud single father to his son, Dante, 9, and stepdaughter, Chelsea, 15 with whom you will often find him roller blading or bicycling around Piedmont Park. When not selling, Mark also enjoys time in the kitchen cooking for his kids and friends, as well as going for long runs, or bike rides to Stone Mountain. "I exercise so I can eat more good meals and enjoy good wine!" Mark exclaims. After leaving Boston College, Mark all but lost his interest in college sports, except when his Alma Mater upset Georgia Tech a few years ago, and UGA in this year's Music City Bowl. (He insisted we print that!)

"I joined IFMA in 1999 when I entered the commercial interiors industry, primarily as an avenue to build my network with professionals in the industry." He continues, "What I didn't know then is how many great friendships would evolve through this organization...that's been the biggest benefit!"