HFTP MID-FLORIDA CHAPTER

INN SIGHT

October 2026



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026

Menu

Starter

House salad: Tomato, Shredded Carrot, Cucumber, Onion, Shredded Provolone, Vegan Mustard Caper Vinaigrette or Buttermilk Ranch

Entrée *- choice of*

- *Filet Medallions with Shoyu Cream Sauce, Garlic Mashed Potatoes & Grilled Broccolini*
- *Lemon Rosemary Airline Chicken Breast with Charred Kale Pesto, Garlic Mashed Potatoes & Grilled Broccolini*
- *Almond Crusted Salmon with Orange Honey Glaze, Garlic Mashed Potatoes & Grilled Broccolini*
- *Vegan Risotto*

Dessert

Chef's Special

Complimentary self-parking:

Guests will take a ticket when entering the garage. There is no need to validate or keep track of the ticket for departure. Approximately 30 minutes prior to the end the event, Delaney Tavern staff will raise the exit gate so guests can leave the garage freely without needing their ticket.

Program presented By:
Dr Murat Kizildag



The $1 Million Decision: How GMs Should Evaluate Technology Investments ROI, payback period, NPV, productivity savings, implementation costs, and hidden costs of hospitality technology.

Location

Delaney's Tavern
Copeland Room
118 Fernwood St, Orlando

Cost

Members with RSVP $65
Non-Members & Guests $75
Student Chapter Members $35

R.S.V.P. is required. Please visit our website midfloridahftp.org or respond to your personal e-vite from the chapter Secretary. Please RSVP or cancel no later than 5:01 PM, Friday prior to the event. Unfortunately, we cannot accept walk-ins, or credit any no-shows or late cancellations.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear fellow members,
One of the questions I've been asked throughout my career is, "Justin, what's in the bag?"

Whether I'm traveling, attending meetings, or participating in industry events, my briefcase has become a bit of a running joke. During my installation as President of the HFTP Mid-Florida Chapter, I finally decided to answer that question.

As I pulled a few items from my bag, each represented something important. A charger symbolized staying connected. A key represented opening doors. A notebook reminded us to listen and learn. A student ID highlighted the importance of investing in the future. A calculator reflected growth. And, of course, a pineapple represented the spirit of hospitality that brings us all together.

But the real message wasn't about what was in the bag.

It was about the people behind it.

As I begin my term as President, I am grateful to the past presidents whose leadership and dedication helped build the strong chapter we enjoy today. Their efforts created the foundation that allows us to continue growing and evolving.

I am also incredibly excited about the energy, ideas, and enthusiasm our new Board of Directors brings to the chapter. This is a talented group of hospitality and technology professionals who care deeply about our members, and I look forward to working alongside them to create an outstanding year for HFTP Mid-Florida.

Looking ahead, our focus will be on growing membership, increasing engagement, and strengthening our connection with students who represent the future of our industry. My goal is simple: continue creating opportunities for professionals to learn, build relationships, and advance their careers through HFTP.

The hospitality industry has always been built on relationships, and our chapter is no different. Our greatest asset isn't our events or programs. It's our people.

So, what's in the bag?

A few useful tools, certainly. But more importantly, it's filled with the people who have helped build this chapter, those who lead it today, and those who will shape its future.

I am honored to serve as your President and excited for what we'll accomplish together in the year ahead.



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OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2026-'27

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2026-'27 COMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Awards / SWAG
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Ashley Matthews - Ashley.Matthews@schultehospitality.com

Golf Committee
Jeff Fernandez - Jeff.Fernandez@sodexo.com
Jack Griffith - jlgriffith1950@gmail.com

Job Board
Justin McCann - JMccann@mtg-fl.com

Keeper of the Calendar
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Locations
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Brittni Rosen - BRosen@cariberoyale.com

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Glen Carr - Glen.Carr@gmail.com
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Newsletter
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Cody Morash - Cody.Morash@belden.com

Nominations *Engage the next generation*
Dennis Villegas - Dvillegas@rosenhotels.com
Chad Curtis– CCurtis@Rosenhotels.com

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Student Engagement / Recruitement
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Technology / Website
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Amanda Masilunis - AMasilunis@Rosenhotels.com

UPCOMING MEETING: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2026

Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club, Orlando, FL



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MEET OUR PRESENTER

DR. MURAT KIZILDAG

Dr. Murat Kizildag is an Associate Professor and Academic Program Review Coordinator at the University of Central Florida's Rosen College of Hospitality Management. He holds a Ph.D. in Hospitality Business Administration with a concentration in Finance, an MBA with an emphasis in Finance, and an M.S. in Restaurant, Hotel, and Institutional Management—all from Texas Tech University. During his doctoral studies, he completed the Bloomberg Essentials Training Program Certification in Equity, Fixed-Income, Foreign Exchange (FX), and Commodity markets through Bloomberg University.

Dr. Kizildag's scholarly work is driven by a deep fascination with financial research and analytics. His expertise spans security valuation, risk and investment analytics, financial modeling and forecasting, portfolio optimization, and advanced time-series analysis. He has produced approximately 65 publications across mainstream business finance journals and leading outlets in hospitality business and management. His research achievements have been recognized with the Excellence in Research Fellow Award from the University of Central Florida (2024) and multiple best paper awards, including three from the International Association of Hospitality Financial Management Educators (iAHFME), a First Place Research Award from the ICHRIE Research Competition, and the Best Research Poster Award from the EuroCHRIE Conference. His externally-supported work includes contributions to the Curaçao Tourist Board's Strategic Economic Development Master Plan (2015–2020), a project totaling $300,000.

A committed academic leader, Dr. Kizildag serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Hospitality Financial Management (JHFM) and Managing Editor of the International Journal of Hospitality Management (IJHM)—one of the field's premier SSCI journals. He also holds Associate Editor roles with the Journal of Food Business Research (JFBR) and Heliyon.

Dr. Kizildag is an active contributor to the global academic and professional community. He has delivered keynote and panel presentations at numerous conferences and industry events, including ISTTE, ARDA World Annual Convention, the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) and Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals (HFTP) joint meetings, the Florida Institute of CPAs (FICPA) Mega CPE Conference, and the Service and Management Innovation Seminar Series hosted by Jorge Tadeo Lozano University in Colombia.

At UCF, Dr. Kizildag teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in financial management, managerial accounting, and financial analysis for hospitality enterprises. He is a recipient of the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award, Excellence in Professional Service Award, and the Faculty Member of the Year Award from UCF. He is also a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Fellow at UCF.

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MID-FLORIDA CHAPTER

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HFTP
MID-FLORIDA CHAPTER

HFTP Mid-Florida and You

Leadership

Your chapter provides you a vehicle to grow in your personal and professional life through serving on chapter committees and the Board of Directors. Learn how to run a small business and lead the greatest HFTP chapter in the Universe. You will learn public speaking skills and gain confidence in your expertise. You can get the opportunity to develop and execute chapter programs developing valuable leadership skills.

Scholarship

Your chapter provides the HFTP CHAE and CHTP reviews and the testing for those two HFTP certifications in accounting and technology. We need you to help yourself and get certified. This should be a normal progression in your professional career. Your Chapter also provides Continuing Professional Education seminars at the General Meetings and Mini-Education events.

Participation

Your chapter provides a chance for you to give back to your community by assisting at the chapter golf event to benefit the kids at Camp Boggy Creek. Don't shy away, the chapter needs your time and talent. It also gives you the unique opportunity for chapter leadership at these events, being part of the solution.

Service

Your chapter provides the avenue for you to give of yourself in serving your fellow members and your community. We encourage you to get involved in your Mid-Florida HFTP Chapter. We need places to hold the monthly general membership meetings. We need our members to support the chapter events by supplying prizes and helping make these events successful. We need speakers for the General Meetings and the Mini-Educational.

POST
INTEGRATIONS

Hotels are Us.
Credit Cards are Us.
Nuff said.

postint.com
866.377.2649

PRESENTING YOUR 2026-2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Top row, left to right: Glenn Carr, Brittni Rosen, Nick Seddon, Samantha Rodriguez, Angelika Balkarran, Amanda Masilunis, Gerard Ivey, Yamir Olivero. Bottom row, left to right: Daniel Morris, Dennis Villegas, Justin McCann, Grethel Flores

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OUR CHARITY | CAMP BOGGY CREEK

In 2002, then President Randall Rickmann and Vice President Diana Hull, along with other leaders of our Chapter met with representatives of about a handful of local charities. The objective of this endeavor was to choose the Chapter's charity. Three (3) of the charities were JDRF, Give Kids the World, and Camp Boggy Creek. As the story goes there was a personal relationship between someone connected to our Chapter and the Camp that swayed the vote. That's how Camp Boggy Creek became the charity of our Chapter.

The Camp was relatively new as it had been founded in 1996, born out of the experience of a seriously ill child who had spent time at one of Paul Newman's "Hole in the Wall" camps for kids. Upon returning home to Central Florida, she asked her parents why there wasn't a camp like that in Central Florida. The Camp's literature refers to a poem written by Jennifer Masi, a South Florida teenager undergoing treatment for cancer. It was this poem that inspired many, including founders Actor Paul Newman and General Norman Schwarzkopf, Jennifer's parents Nick and Wendy Masi, and David Horvitz just to name a few.

Here is her poem, The Dolphin:
A dolphin swimming through an endless sea,
Struggling through each new obstacle….
Scared, worried, unsure of what's to come.
Tough though.
Fighting, fighting.
Until one day she just couldn't anymore.
She wished to be in a place where she didn't have to fight for every inch.
And her wish was granted.

Before she died at the young age of 14, she enlisted neighbors, community leaders, and her parents to rally behind building a camp that would be a respite for other children facing serious medical illness just like her who were facing a serious medical illness.

The 232-acre plot of land in Eustis, Florida on which the camp is now located had been willed to Florida Hospital by a former patient of who in turn donated it to The Boggy Creek Gang- the actual name of the non-profit organization that runs the camp. The camp serves children ages 7 – 16 who have been diagnosed with a serious illness. As a year-round retreat, since 1996 the camp has provided over 90,000 campers with a serious illness and their families a FREE, life-changing camp experience.

For those of you who want to learn more about the camp and its deep history, go to boggycreek.org and be ready to smile and laugh. Also, view "The Healer" on Netflix for a very enjoyable family movie inspired by the Hole In The Wall Camps.

The BIG question next on the minds of our Chapter's leaders at that time was how best to fund our new Charity. They decided to host a golf tournament in conjunction with our General Meeting / Spring Social on June 13, 2003- our 1st Annual Golf Tournament benefitting The Boggy Creek Gang was born. It was held at Mystic Dunes Golf Club – The Wyndham Palms Resort in Kissimmee, Florida. The Committee Chairs were none other than Rod Bitterling and David Branson.

The proceeds of that first tournament given to the Camp were $11,000!!!

To be continued……

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