

INN SIGHT

May 2026



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

Menu

Starter

*Chilled Corn Salad
Black Truffle Creme,
Pomegranate Seeds and Cotija
Cheese*

Entrée (choice of)

*Braised Short Ribs
Risotto Milanese, Horseradish,
Leek, Port Jus*

*Wild Mushroom Risotto, Truffle
Arugula Parmesan (V)*

Dessert

*New York Cheesecake
Raspberry Gel, Vanilla Crumble,
Whipped Cream, Seasonal
Berries*

Location & Parking

Conrad Orlando

Free self parking

Cost

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

Program presented By:
Dr Murat Kizildag



OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2025-'26

Officers

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Communications/ Social Media/ Webmaster

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Scholarship/ Awards

Justin McCann—jmccann@mtg-fl.com

Nominations

Gayle Edwards- GEdwards@Profact.com

Daron Sandberg- DSandberg@Rosenhotels.com

Chad Curtis- CCurtis@Rosenhotels.com

Chapter of the Year & Regional Conference

The Board*

Global Liaison

Gayle Edwards* - GEdwards@Profact.com

Engagement Committee

Christina Finch* -Christina@FinchSearchPartners.com

Nametags

Nick Seddon—nseddon@cariberoyale.com

Registration Table/ 50/50

Randy Andersen- RAndersen@Profact.com

Community Service

Gayle Edwards* - GEdwards@Profact.com

Charity Golf Event

Camp Boggy Creek - It's all for the kids!

Jack Griffith* - Jack.Griffith@Sodexo.com

Historian/ Photography

Michael Dryden* - Michael.Dryden@Hilton.com

Job Board

Dennis Villegas- DVillegas@Rosenhotels.com

Keeper of the Calendar

Justin McCann—jmccann@mtg-fl.com

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Mid Florida Chapter Members

As we enter May, I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to our board members for their commitment to this year's Regionals. Balancing professional responsibilities, personal life, and HFTP duties is no small task, and I am truly grateful for the dedication each of you continues to demonstrate. Your hard work has not gone unnoticed.

To all our members, Regionals notifications have been sent. We are offering a \$100 discount to all members and to non-members who register before July 13th, so I encourage you to secure your discounted registration as soon as possible. Please also remember to book your room before July 22nd to take advantage of our negotiated rate with the Caribe Royale. Vendors interested in sponsoring Regionals should have received their notifications as well. For updates on speakers, schedules, and sponsorship opportunities, please visit our website at hftpfloridaregional.org regularly.

Thank you for your continued support and for the professionalism you bring to our community. I look forward to the opportunities this month will bring and to continuing our work together in service to our industry.

Sincerely,
Dennis Villegas
President
Mid-Florida Chapter





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.



UPCOMING MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026

Social Event!

PopStroke

Wintergarden, FL



SAVE THE DATE | AUGUST 12-14, 2026

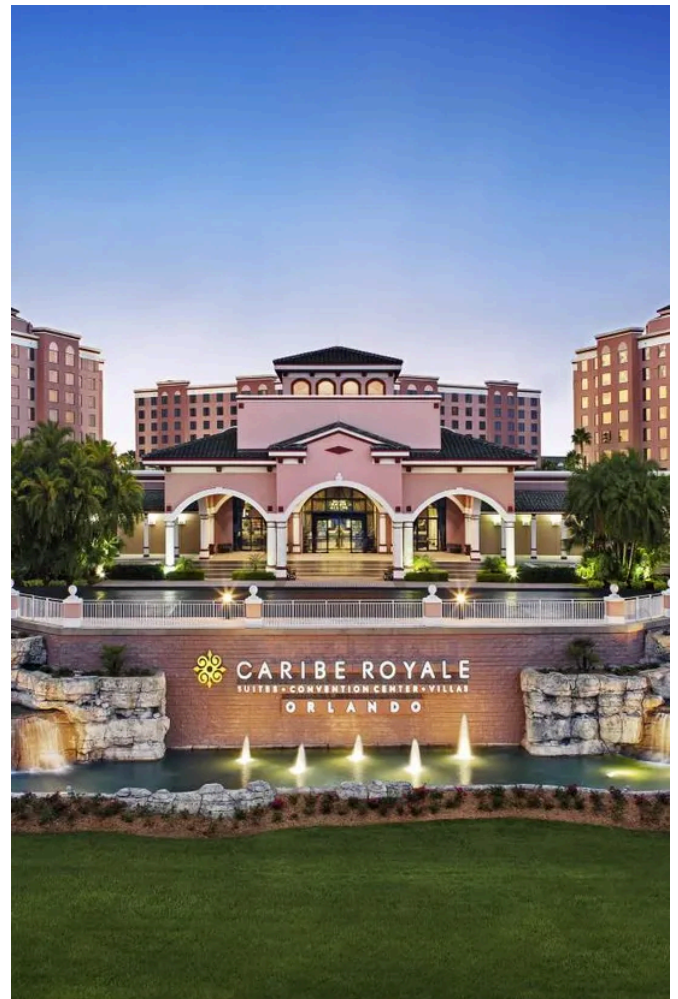
2026 HFTP Florida Regional Conference

Caribe Royale

Orlando, FL

The Florida Regional Conference 2026, hosted by the HFTP Mid-Florida Chapter, is the premier statewide gathering for Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals (HFTP). Scheduled for August 12-14, 2026, at the luxurious Caribe Royale Orlando in Orlando, Florida, this event unites members and industry partners from across the state—including the Gold Coast, Gulf Coast, Treasure Coast, South Florida, and Mid-Florida Chapters—for two full days of advanced-level continuing education, insightful discussions on emerging trends, strategic industry challenges, and unparalleled networking opportunities.

- Explore key topics in hospitality finance.
- Network with industry professionals.
- Engage in insightful discussions on trends.





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.



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PRESENTING YOUR 2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Top row, left to right: Jose Santos, Daniel Morris, Brittnei Rosen, Angelika Balkarran, Amanda Masilunis, Glen Carr.
Bottom row, left to right: Gayle Edwards, Michael Dryden, Dennis Villegas, Randy Anderson, Justin McCann

*Any opinions expressed in the Mid-Florida Chapter newsletter and web-site are solely those of the editor, webmaster or author of the article and are not associated with HFTP Global. Additionally, all works and publications are created entirely through volunteer time. Please excuse any mistakes or errors. Please consider volunteering content to be shared with your fellow members by emailing the editor.

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.....