



North Texas

ACP

ACP ASSOCIATION OF CONTINGENCY PLANNERS - Providing a powerful network for the advancement of the industry and the development of business continuity professionals.

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"Carpe diem! Rejoice while you are alive; enjoy the day; live life to the fullest; make the most of what you have. It is later than you think." - Horace



President's Comments...

As 2012 draws to a close, I want to say thank you for choosing to be a member of North Texas ACP. We have been part of the Association of Contingency Planners for 25 years and before that, there was an independent organization for our profession here in Dallas / Fort Worth. Currently, we are one of the five largest chapters within ACP, which is incredible with the number of job losses experienced in our profession over the last few years. It has been my privilege to be your president the past 2 years. I am very excited that we have so many new officers for 2013, which will bring new ideas to continue growing our chapter well into the future.

As we move into 2013, I encourage you to:

- 1) Attend **the chapter meetings**. North Texas ACP is made up of individual members with different experiences and challenges. You get a great opportunity to network with your peers every time we meet!
- 2) **Volunteer when your time permits**. There are opportunities several times each year to volunteer for a specific role or committee. Any time you think of something that would be great to do, then please reach out to any member of your chapter board.
- 3) **Participate in our LinkedIn group**. We have over 200 people in our LinkedIn group ([Association Of Contingency Planners - North Texas \(Dallas\)](#)) and it is a great way to also reach out to your peers.
- 4) Consider **being an officer**. As the new board comes on in January 2013, it is 10 months away from the nomination time. Would you like to be more visible as a business continuity, disaster recovery, or emergency management professional? If so, being a chapter officer is a great way to enhance your network and visibility! It does take some time, but, some positions require less time than others. ACP does offer training for each position and there will be periodic calls so you can connect people in that same position across the other 43 chapters in ACP.
- 5) **Suggest speakers or programs**. It is important to hear from you about what you would like for chapter programs and field trips. Grace Wright is our new Program Director and several people have provided some suggestions, but, the 2013 program is far from complete at this point! She would welcome your ideas.
- 6) **Bring on the job leads**. In 2012, we have about 50 job leads to pass onto our membership. That is a huge benefit to our members and a priceless benefit if you find yourself needing that next position.

As our year winds down, I hope you are able to relax a bit and enjoy the holidays. In our profession, the disasters don't stop, but, hopefully you will have some time to recharge as we prepare for whatever challenges 2013 brings our way.

Mike

North Texas Chapter Meetings

INFORMATION ABOUT OUR UPCOMING MEETING

Date: December 4th

Subject: Holiday Luncheon

Location: Lawry's

Time: Arrive at 11.30 am; food service will start promptly at noon.

Reservations only- contact Susan Guinn for details

Susan.Guinn@citi.com

Agenda (periodically during meal):

- Welcome
- Recognize new members
- New certifications, jobs, job searchers
- Recognize 2012 and 2013 officers
- Recognize 2012 North Texas ACP Member of the Year
- Door Prizes (drawing for gifts)
- Closing statements

Special Points of Interest/Inside this issue

- *BC/DR Professional showcase – “Taking your BC/DR profession to the Next Level” Cheyenne Marling*
- *Recap UNT Tour*
- *Career Corner*
- *Meeting dates for 2013*

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Welcome New Members

We would like to give a warm North Texas chapter “Howdy” to the following new members:



**Kevin Hale
Teresa Johnston
Claudia Tatum**

Congratulations!!



A hearty “Congratulations!” to the following members on their recent Certifications:

New certifications will be announced during the Holiday Luncheon

If you have recently received a certification and would like us to publish your achievement, please contact Dianne Stephens at Dianne.stephens@vertexgroup.com or notify any of the Chapter Officers (listed on page 2)

October Meeting Recap

North Texas ACP and UNT EADP Students Come Together to Forge New Continuity Professionals Community

The North Texas Chapter of the International Association of Contingency Planners (ACP) joined forces with North Texas' Emergency Administration and Disaster Planning (EADP) students to cement the beginning of a new relationship.

The chapter journeyed to the University of North Texas to meet with the students at the university's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on Tuesday, October 23rd where the students and professionals exchanged ideas, networking suggestions, and extensive discussions around resume writing, interview tips, potential internships and career placement trends and options.

The students were encouraged to connect with ACP member professionals to establish mentoring relationships to gain assistance in finding that first great job! ACPers on hand were thrilled to be a part of the event and actively engaged with students; many stayed long after the meeting ended to lend an ear, offer personalized advice and swap contact information.

Students were invited to attend ACP's monthly meetings; the upcoming November 6th meeting will focus on the Disaster Recovery Institute's Professional Practices and give student attendees the opportunity to meet with the expanded organizational membership.

More information about the upcoming meetings can be found at the North Texas ACP site: www.northtx.acp-international.com and by joining the organization's LinkedIn group: [Association Of Contingency Planners - North Texas \(Dallas\)](#)

For more information about the joint venture, please contact Chris Weimer, OutReach Coordinator for UNT IAEM-SC or Mia Marzullo, Director of Publicity, North Texas ACP.

Submitted by: Mia Marzullo



ACP members and Students from University of North Texas

Career Corner

This column will be devoted to our members from the perspective of the employee.

We will be focusing on:

- Your job classification, are you:
 - Unemployed/ in Pre-Employment
 - Under employed
 - Miserably employed
 - Gainfully and Happily employed
- Jobs, which companies are hiring and how can I land that opportunity of a lifetime?
- Career Development/ Empowerment
- Using Social Networking- the Dos and the Don'ts
- Risk, how broad can we go to obtain opportunities?
- Internal HR, just what are they looking for?
- Head Hunters, are they working for me?
- Your community, what can we do to assist the community and also be recognized as a leader?

If you have any ideas or suggestions for topics you want included in the Career Corner, please send me a note at: Susan.Guinn@citi.com

Welcome to...

Career Corner:

Wow, the year is almost over! As Michael said in his President's remarks, YOU determine how you want your organization to continue for 2013 and that includes, where you want to take your career.

This year, we covered tips and tricks of your resume, How to make your Linked-In account stand out and How you can be a better and more valuable employee and many other topics.

This month we are covering 8 Signs You've Found Your Life's Work By Amber Rae. This article pretty much sums up any industry or field and how you respond to it. For the complete article go to:

http://www.fastcompany.com/3002168/8-signs-youve-found-your-lifes-work?goback=%2Egde_4172177_member_185270959

How are you looking for meaning in your life' work for 2013? Do you want to continue the status quo? If not, please consider assisting your fellow North Texas ACP members with this column.

Again, all of this information will be driven from what you are interested in. If you have a particular area of interest - Please contact Susan at Susan.Guinn@citi.com or at 469-220-8604.

UPCOMING MEETING CALENDAR

Meeting calendar

Date	Location	Spotlight	Presentation 1	Presentation 2
December 4, 2012	Lawry's - Annual Luncheon		Welcome / All 2012 Certifications & Award	
January 8, 2013	BSA			
February 5, 2013	H5 CoLo			
March 5, 2013	BSA			
April 2, 2013	H5 CoLo			
May 7, 2013	BSA			
June 4, 2013	H5 CoLo			
July 9, 2013	Field Trip			
August 6, 2013	BSA			
September 10, 2013	Field Trip			
October 1, 2013	H5 CoLo			
November 5, 2013	BSA			
December 3, 2013	Holiday Lunch			



**Association of
Contingency Planners**

[Click here > ACP website](#)

*** * *BC/DR Professional Showcase* * ***

An Interview with Cheyenne Marling Taking your BC/DR Profession to the next level

**Ms. Cheyenne Marling
President
BC Management, Inc.**



Cheyenne Marling has been an executive recruiter for fifteen years with thirteen of those years specializing in the business continuity field. In 2000 she founded BC Management, Inc. a recruitment and data research firm specializing in the business continuity.

Cheyenne has become an integral part of the business continuity community previously serving on the board for the Association of Contingency Planners of Los Angeles and Orange County and currently an active professional on the Editorial Advisory Board for Continuity Insights. She was also the recipient of the inaugural ACP Hall of Fame award in 2006 and most recently she was awarded an Honorary MBCI by the Business Continuity Institute (BCI).

Q & A

Taking your BC/DR Profession to the next level

When building our Career Goals, what are the top 3 questions we should be asking ourselves? **How can I make a difference for the program and my team? What motivates me? What balance am I seeking between work and family life?**

You are in a key position to monitor the trends in the market place. Are you willing to make a best bet on what skills will be in demand 2 years from now? **Global expertise will be crucial. I'm not implying that someone needs to be working overseas to gain that expertise, though. Working on the program on a global basis will continue to be a very marketable skill. Companies more than ever seek real world experience in responding to disasters and activating programs during a disaster. Not everyone is equipped to "emotionally" respond during an actual event.**

In your opinion, what is easier to sell to a prospective hiring company – Leadership skills or real world experience? **Real world experience is easier to sell. Professionals should keep a list of the events they responded to. What was their involvement in responding to the**

event and what did they learn from the event? The same exercise should be done for leadership skills too, though. How many years have you served on a board? How many presentations have you given and where? Have you written any white papers or contributed to industry journals?

Real world – have you come across many BC or DR professionals that have a robust Training program that they personally deliver within their organization. Are you seeing that companies are willing to invest time/money on educating their staff? **Yes, I have come across several professionals who have rolled out an organizational training program on BCM. I have found, though, that training programs have dropped a bit in priority of company needs. I'm assuming that the economy has impacted this a bit as companies focus on the bottom line.**

While looking for a suitable candidate – what indicators do you look for to show someone is a true Champion of our BC/DR profession? **It really comes down to the dialogue with the candidate. Do they inspire me? Do they actually know what they are talking about? Can they reference examples when I ask questions? What are their accomplishments? Are they a leader in the profession or an upcoming leader? Are they well spoken and polished?**

Can you talk to us a little about “Branding” – For example: Being ‘Detailed’ – could be a plus or minus. **It is natural to assess other individuals so that you can form an opinion on how they might act in future situations. Everyone has a “personal brand” and how they react in 1 on 1 settings along with group settings develops their “personal brand” over time. Everyone must be aware of their “personal brand” and how they conduct themselves in different situations. The better your personal brand matches the company culture will contribute to your success with an organization. Meaning, being detailed may be a good match with one organization or hiring manager, or it may be the exact opposite.**

Do you have any suggestions on what are considered ‘good’ places to publish? **The Disaster Recovery Journal and Continuity Insights are large, recognized industry journals within the USA. Both organizations are always seeking informative articles to publish. Aside from that, commenting on blogs, LinkedIn and other social industry groups can also increase your marketability.**

Do you see an increase in the number BC professionals? **Yes, I certainly do. The profession continues to grow each year and more than ever professionals are entering the BCM profession through various career paths, such as operations, compliance, risk management, audit, health & safety and program management, to name a few. Programs also continue to grow as enterprise programs within organizations, which is also increasing the number of experienced BCM professionals.**

Do you have any idea why ACP is decreasing in membership throughout the country? **I would point to the economy. Fewer organizations are assisting professionals with reimbursing for such organizations. Individuals are also busier than ever at work**

because they have increased responsibilities due to a lack of replacing professionals who were laid off or resigned. Aside from money, it's become a challenge to leave work and participate in association events.

If you were new to the business continuity profession, what skills would you want to obtain in your first several years? **Professionals new to the industry should gain experience (as much as they can) in being involved in the full-life cycle in developing and implementing a BCM program. Certification is also key and desired by most of my companies.**

What skills do you see missing in longer-term business continuity professionals? **Long-term business continuity professionals seem to struggle with thinking outside of the box. Approaches and best practices evolve over time. One should never assume that they have all the answers just based on their years of experience. Everyone should always be learning and accept that they don't always know everything, despite how many years of experience they have.**

Interview conducted by: Dianne Stephens