

Inside this issue:

From Your Regional Director	1
FGI Houston Board Members / Advisory Council	2
Volunteers	2
New Members	3-4
What's New in FGI	5
Student Members	6
Outstanding Member—July	7-8-9
Outstanding Member—August	10
Outstanding Member—October	11
FGI Events	12
Student Membership Program	13
FGI Benefits	14
	15

**From Your Regional Director**

Dear Fellow FGI Members,

What an honor it was to be chosen as your 2008 Woman of Excellence at the Women of Excellence Gala sponsored by The Federation of Houston Professional Women and the FHPW Educational Foundation! I am so proud to represent the Houston Region of FGI.

In each FGI newsletter, I like to reflect on the goals we set for the year and what we have accomplished thus far. Indeed, we have reached and even surpassed many of our goals, but there is no doubt about it: 2008 is turning out to be a year of many challenges.

Hurricane Ike has passed but its devastating aftermath remains. For some, Hurricane Ike presented only minor inconveniences, but for many others, the impacts are significant and long-term. Many of us have encountered the loss at our homes and at our businesses and are facing the daunting task of repairs and restoration.

We are also facing new financial challenges that threaten to affect our livelihood.

Reflecting on these challenges brings to mind the theme of the Women of Excellence Gala – *The Power of Teamwork*. In FGI, we have a team. This is the time that we can all come together and support each other.

How can we support members? As members, we all have received an FGI Directory. In this newsletter are listed all our new members for the year 2008, as well as our new student members. Look at each member's information. Is there some way we can use their service? Do we have a service that might help someone else? Get to know the members by attending our events. Get involved. We always need help with our many endeavors – growing our membership, planning our events, and in many other ways.

I hope you are visiting our FGI Website frequently. Spend some time looking it over; you will find many exciting changes (and many more are to come). All of the information about your Board of Directors, Advisory Council, Outreach Committee and Board of Directors

Auxiliary Members are listed under "Who's Who". Our calendar is constantly being updated, so you can always check out the dates and details of all the events.

As we celebrate teamwork, let's remember that every success we have is influenced by the team of people who support us. Halford E. Luccack once said, ***No one can whistle a symphony. It takes an orchestra to play it.***

With warmest wishes,



Jeanette Coon,  
AICI  
Regional Director  
FGI—Houston

***"If you rebel against high heels,  
take care to do so in a very smart hat."***

George Bernard Shaw

**FGI Houston Board of Directors**

**FGI  
Houston Advisory Council**

**Regional Director**  
Jeanette Coon, AICI  
(Image Consultant)  
President, Professional  
Polish  
Worth Clothing

**Treasurer**  
Patsy Flowers  
Retired Director of  
Public Relations  
Houston Community  
College

**Secretary  
Delegate to the  
Federation of Pro-  
fessional Women**  
Susan Fruit, ASID,  
CGR  
President and CEO of  
Susan Fruit Interiors

**Programming  
Chair**  
Stephanie Talafuse  
President, Premiere  
Promotions, Inc.

**Informal Program-  
ming  
Chair**  
Shandolyn Arline-  
Johnson  
(fashion marketing &

promotions—transfer  
from Orlando, Florida)

**Membership—New**  
Kathy Ellis  
Owner, The Business  
Lab  
(marketing) and  
Leifers

**Membership—  
Retention**  
Carla Kay, Image Con-  
sultant  
Carla Kay Personal  
Style Consultants

**Foundation**  
Gloria Pearson  
Designer and Owner  
Glorious

**Outreach Chair  
FGI Photographer**  
Brett Chisholm  
President—Brett Chis-  
holm Photography

**Member-At-Large  
Membership**  
Alyssa Adomaitis  
Professor  
Rice University

**Member-At-Large  
Membership**  
Kara Times  
Area Sales Manager  
Dillard’s Department  
Stores

**Member-At-Large**  
Di Manning  
President/Designer,  
Flunke Flopz

**Member-At-Large  
Programming -  
Reservations**  
Janelle Flatt  
Hairstylist & Makeup  
Artist  
Norris of Houston  
Salon & Spa

**Member-At-Large**  
Dusty Gilbert  
Founder & President,  
bareHouston  
Editor, skirt! Houston

**Geraldine Gill**  
President  
The Current Event

**Sylvia Forsythe**  
Public Relations and Fashion Director  
Salk’s Fifth Avenue

**Lisa Holland-Nelson**  
President/COO  
Content Active

**Kay King**  
Fashion & Interior Design Department  
Chair—Houston Community College

**Linda S. Kuykendall**  
Sr. Reg. Manager—E.E. & Tourism  
Macy’s South

**Roz Pactor**  
Owner  
The Pactor Group

**Joy Sewing**  
Fashion Editor  
The Houston Chronicle

**Stacey Swift**  
Manager of Public Relations  
Neiman Marcus

**FGI Volunteers**

**FGI Website**  
Ibrahim C. Firat, MBA  
President, UZO Umbrellas

**Student Membership**  
Josephine Gough  
Owner, UZO Umbrellas

**Membership Committee  
Retention**  
Genae Fields  
(Image Consultant)  
Principal

Image One International  
Ruby Muller, Professor  
Education—HCC

**Community Newsletter**  
Mimi Dinh, President  
Mikel Marketing

**Outreach Committee**  
Brett Chisholm, Chair  
Brett Chisholm Photography

Ibrahim C. Firat  
UZO Umbrellas

Judy Foston  
Foston International

Dusty Gilbert  
skirt! Houston  
bareHouston

Debbie Nguyen  
Mikel Marketing, LLC

Judy Nichols  
Judy Nichols & Associates

## New Members 2008

What a year we have had! So many new wonderful members.

<p><b>Elizabeth Anderson</b> CEO/President Fashion Designer <b>Elizabeth's Kreation</b></p> <p>Elizabeth is currently designing a plus size line to come out this year for fall/winter and spring/summer.</p>	<p><b>Boone Bullington</b> Managing Director <b>Doncaster</b></p> <p>Boone manages a \$10 million sales area for the SW United States in direct sales business of ladies high end fashion.</p>	<p><b>Gayle Hightower</b> Divisional Merchandise Manager <b>The Worth Collection</b></p> <p>Gayle recruits and manages 16 Worth sellers. She is responsible for six previews of the collection every year and for helping train all of the sellers.</p>	<p><b>Debbie Nguyen</b> Special Events Director <b>Mikel Marketing</b></p> <p>Among Debbie's many responsibilities, she creates and designs pre-event vision to meet clients budget and standards. She is very active initiating and managing special projects and cross promotions for clients.</p>
<p><b>Gretchen Penny</b> Owner/President <b>Easy Expression Products, Inc.</b></p> <p>Easy Expression Products, Inc. is a bra manufacturing company. The bras are designed for women who breastfeed their babies.</p>	<p><b>Dr. Michel Siegel</b> CEO/President/Director <b>Facial Center For Plastic Surgery</b></p> <p>Dr. Siegel is excited to become a member of FGI, and he looks forward to participating in some of our programs.</p>	<p><b>Les Strech</b> Regional Director <b>Tom James Company</b></p> <p>The Tom James Company is the world's largest manufacturer and retailer of custom clothing. They go directly to the clients' home or office. They plan, coordinate, and maintain their clients' wardrobe so they are perfectly attired for any situation.</p>	<p><b>Ally Shell</b> Agency Booker <b>Neal Hamil Agency</b></p> <p>Ally plays a major role in the Neal Hamil Agency, and we welcome her to FGI. We look forward to getting to know her better and to utilizing some of her many talents in our FGI events.</p>
<p><b>Gabrielle Gunn</b> Owner <b>Beaucoup Amour, LLC</b></p> <p>Gabrielle keeps busy with her small fashion based business. We welcome Gabrielle to FGI and look forward to visiting her boutique.</p>	<p><b>Tiffanye DeWalt</b> Assistant Manager <b>Billy Reid</b></p> <p>Tiffanye has been recognized as a top producer in sales within her company. Responsibilities include visual merchandising/marketing and assisting in fashion show productions.</p>	<p><b>Dusty Gilbert</b> Editor, skirt Magazine Founder &amp; President, bareHouston</p> <p>As editor of Skirt! Magazine in Houston, Dusty is involved in selecting, writing and coordinating all local editorial content, much of which is fashion related.</p>	<p><b>Chloe Dao</b> Co-Owner <b>LOT 8</b></p> <p>Chloe is a designer of her own line, DAO Chloe DAO. She also has a line which is exclusive to QVC called Simply Chloe Dao, along with another line of electronic cases for Pacific Designs.</p>

## About FGI Membership

### Executive Member Requirements:

\$50 Initiation/\$145 annual dues.

Executive members must have held an executive, professional or managerial position (s) in a fashion-related industry for at least 3 years.

### Associate Member Requirements:

\$25 Initiation/\$70 annual dues.

Associate members must be currently employed in an executive, professional or managerial position in a fashion-related industry for at least 1 year but less than 3 years. The application must include a resume.

## New Members 2008

We are so pleased to introduce you to our 2008 New Members. We look forward to greeting each of you at our events.

**Sydney Dao**  
Co-Owner  
**LOT 8**

Sydney is responsible for all the marketing and PR for LOT 8 boutique, LOT 8 salon and for Chloe Dao. She is also responsible for the operations and management of the boutique and she produces all the events and fashion shows for both the boutique and salon.

**Heather McLeskey**  
Executive Vice President  
**Elaine Turner Designs**

Heather oversees all aspects of the business. Her main focus is to ensure the success of Production, Marketing and the Website with all other areas of the business sales and design.

**Jon Clinton**  
Professor  
**The Art Institute of Houston**

Jon teaches Business, Finance, and Accounting courses for the 4 year fashion program. He also has his own consulting business.

**Eva Prappas**  
Fashion Consultant/Personal Shopper

Eva does personal shopping for her clients, advising them on the current trends and what works for their body type, etc. She also gives seminars on "How to dress for the work place" and related topics.

**Kimberly Jones-Milton**  
Style and Image Consultant  
**Mirror Mirror Me Image Consultants**

Kimberly specializes in style, color and wardrobe consultations—from interviews, to dates, graduations, weddings etc. . . .

**Ibrahim Firat**  
President,  
**UZO Umbrellas**

Ibrahim is responsible for the entire operation of the UZO Umbrella brand, from marketing, to budgeting, website development and maintenance and international business. He is also responsible for the development and import of Muni-bay products.

**Judy Foston**  
Owner  
**Foston International**

Judy is president and founder of Foston International, a full service multi-media company founded in 1984. In addition to PR, marketing and advertising work, she is also the executive producer of a radio and TV show in Houston. She has also produced and promoted fashion shows during the Sammy Davis, Jr. Awards.

**Elisea Frishberg**  
VP & Founder  
**Biz Radio Network**

Elisea works with high net worth individuals in helping them grow and maintain their wealth. Their network offers advice, programs and events.

**Ali Hasan**  
Owner  
**Razail Fashions**

**Ali is the designer of formal wear and wedding gowns.**

**Brett Chisholm**  
Owner/Photographer  
**Brett Chisholm Photography**

Brett owns and operates a commercial and fashion photography studio in Houston, TX.

**Judith Anderson**  
Sales Representative  
**Nina McLemore**

Judy embodies the Nina McLemore designer line of clothing that focuses on senior executive and professional women—women who are active in the non-profit management of their communities and high net worth women.

**Janelle Flatt**  
Hair Stylist & Makeup Artist  
**Norris of Houston Salon & Spa**

Janelle is an outstanding hair stylist and makeup artist. Prior to joining Norris, Janelle was with Figaro Salon & Spa.

***"Know, first, who you are; and then adorn yourself accordingly."***

*Epictetus*

**New Members 2008**

We are so pleased to introduce you to our 2008 New Members. We look forward to greeting each of you at our events.

<p><b>Angie Bullington</b> President <b>June May Lingerie</b></p> <p>Angie owns an upscale lingerie boutique specializing in enhancing a woman's body with appropriate foundations.</p>	<p><b>Lauren Battistini</b> Owner <b>Color My Closet</b></p> <p>Color My Closet LLC is a Houston based color and wardrobe consulting firm with a two-fold mission: to educate women on the value of color to their appearance, and to help them build a 100% wearable yet unique wardrobe.</p>	<p><b>Jeri Slater</b> Owner <b>DANNINI</b></p> <p>Jeri is the owner and designer of by-appointment jewelry store. Her high-end jewelry is now featured in the Monte Carlo hotel in Las Vegas and in Market Street in the Woodlands, TX.</p>	<p><b>Nanyamka Jenkins</b> Wedding Director <b>Hold Your Hand Events Inc.</b></p> <p>Her work includes planning and directing of weddings and other social events including setting dress standards for events and creating budgets to fit styles.</p>
<p><b>Michele Owens</b> Owner <b>The Ultimate Diva's Designer Hats</b></p> <p>Michele's business retails designer hats and accessories. She is responsible for overseeing the daily operation of the business, its products, and customer relations.</p>	<p><b>Kelli Parman</b> Sales <b>C2 Media</b></p> <p>C2 Media is a digital printing company which specializes in presentation graphics. Their core clients are retail and fashion. Current clients consist of Macy's, Bloomingdales, Burberry, Tommy Hilfiger, Bed, Bath and Beyond, and Academy—to name a few.</p>	<p><b>Sylvia Forsythe</b> PR Director <b>Saks Fifth Avenue</b></p> <p>Sylvia is the PR and Fashion Director at Saks Fifth Avenue. Sylvia and her staff handle every fashion show and all trends presentations for Saks..</p>	<p><b>Marie Gilbert</b> Owner <b>REMAX</b></p> <p>Marie is the owner of a thriving Real Estate Company.</p>
<p><b>Mandi Hearron</b> Marketing Director <b>Eterna MedSpa</b></p> <p>Mandi is responsible for marketing to the public and networking with people and companies.</p>	<p><b>Elan Rogers</b> Owner <b>Elan Styles</b></p> <p>Elan's company does freelance fashion styling, prop styling, wardrobe styling, and fashion and creative development and consulting for commercial and fashion photo shoots, marketing and advertising media campaigns and miscellaneous fashion related projects such as fundraisers and fashion shows.</p>	<p><b>Delilah Alexander</b> Executive Director <b>Image Essentials LLC &amp; Delilah Unlimited</b></p> <p>Delilah educates and empowers individuals in the area of self esteem, self confidence and self worth while using image and style as a vehicle. She also coordinates fashion shows and informal modeling events at Houston area boutiques and venues.</p>	<p><b>NEW MEMBER</b></p>

***“She wears her clothes as if they were thrown on her with a pitchfork.”***  
Jonathan Swift

## WHAT'S NEW IN FGI

### MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

Beginning **October 1, 2008 and ending November 30, 2008**, whoever brings in the most new Associate and/or Executive Members will receive:

- Their FGI Membership dues paid for the year 2009
- A fabulous Spa Basket worth \$500

The winner will be announced at our Annual Meeting and Holiday Party.

As an **added incentive** to potential members:

- Anyone signing up for membership and **paying their dues at the time of application**, will receive their dues for October, November and December 2008 at no cost.
- Their membership dues will apply for 2009.

### Did You Know?

*THE SPORTY SPECTATOR* was given a heel and punched, serrated detailing to become versatile street wear in the 1930's. Lagerfeld's versions for the 1990s, flat or with a high heel, updated this dashing look with accents such as wing tips, modified saddle-shoe vamps and contrasting laces.

### HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS

At the August 19th Board of Directors Meeting, it was decided to create a new category of membership.

- This level of membership is for those who do not qualify for regular membership but who are interested in fashion, interior design and beauty and would like to help FGI grow. Our goal is to attract top quality members and offer first class programs.
- There are no dues for Honorary Memberships.
- Honorary Members may attend FGI events at the member charge.
- Each Honorary Member will have to be individually voted on by the Board.
- Honorary members will be solicited by invitation from the Board.
- Honorary members will be listed on the Website in a special area.

If there is someone you would like to recommend for an Honorary Membership, please contact Jeanette Coon at 713.467.3988.

## Student Membership Program

### WELCOME TO OUR STUDENT MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

#### Jerry Mathis Jr.

Jerry is currently interning with Talbots as a visual merchandiser. In addition to his internship work, he works on campus at Lamar University in the Office of Student Affairs as a Student Director. Jerry would like to start his career in an entry level position in the fashion industry as a buyer. His long term career goal is to become a merchandising director.

As part of the FGI student membership program, Jerry hopes to gain useful knowledge about the fashion industry that will help him in his future career.

#### Vi Hua

Vi is currently attending Houston Community College. Her goal is "to become a successful fashion designer/wedding planner using precise garment construction, wide range of fashion knowledge, creative design skills, organization skills, people skills, and desire to complete task."

Vi's resume is amazing. She has unbelievable talent and a GPA that consistently ranges between 3.56 to 4.0. She is bi-lingual and has studied both in the United States and Paris, France. On top of all this, she has extensive work experience. She is currently working as Fashion Office Assistant at The Houston Community College.

#### Gregory Griffin

Gregory is a sophomore at Houston Community College studying Fashion Buying & Merchandising. Gregory's career goal is to work for a major fashion brand in the marketing or production department. He says that fashion shows have always been an interest of his, especially the production side.

As part of the FGI student membership program, Gregory hopes to build upon the relationships and knowledge that he already has. He says, "I have a passion to succeed and to go beyond the distance and I feel FGI will provide me useful skills to succeed. I feel I can contribute many things to FGI, but my willingness to learn will probably be the biggest contribution."

#### Elissa Koczka

Elissa is a student at The Art Institute of Houston majoring in Interior Design. Her career goal is to be a Designer Graphically, Interior Designer, Artist, and Writer.

Elissa says about herself: "I'm a designer of all sorts and I feel fashion has a big part to do with some of my inspiration and use of visuals expressing a person's belief. I love fashion history and architecture history! The two relate on a personal passionate level and are ever changing. What statement could tomorrows fashion bring out of me, is what I try and focus on when designing and challenging myself as a designer."

We welcome Elissa and all her many talents to the Student Membership Program.

***"I love America, and I love American women. But there is one thing that deeply shocks me—American closets. I cannot believe one can dress well when you have to much."***

Andrée Putman

## Student Membership Program

### WELCOME TO OUR STUDENT MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

#### Lauren Gau

Lauren is currently a student at the University of Southern California and is an intern for Stephanie Talafus, Premiere Promotions, during the summer.

Lauren is interested in styling, merchandising and buying. She said that she joined the FGI Student Membership Program to get a greater insight into the different job opportunities in the fashion industry. She wants to meet established persons in the fashion industry and learn how they accomplished their career goals.

As with all of our Student Members, Lauren is an excellent student

#### Regina Philip

Regina is another intern at Premiere Promotions during the summer. The rest of the year she attends The University of Texas in Austin.

Regina's career goal is to become a renowned fashion editor of a prestigious magazine. Also, she wants to become the PR person for a fashion company or modeling agency.

By being an FGI Student Member, Regina hopes to learn what is required to be successful in working for a fashion company. She wants to gain experience, meet new people, and be a part of a group that is devoted to the world of fashion.

#### Vy Tran

Vy currently attends the Art Institute of Houston.

Vy says that her career goal is to work for a fashion corporation. Eventually she wants to open her own business in custom fit denim for high status clientele.

When Vy joined the FGI Student Member Program, she said that she hoped to meet people who could be mentors to her so that she could be a successful businesswoman in the fashion industry.

At the Art Institute, Vy is a Student Ambassador, a member of the National Technical Honor Society and is a member of the Fashion Club. She is currently maintaining a 3.9 grade average!

#### Jeremy Blake

Jeremy is a student at The Art Institute of Houston.

Jeremy's career goal is "to be a buyer for a high end retail store and/or to be a personal stylist for celebrities and upper class." He says his interest in the fashion industry is the design and construction of the fabrics. He says he loves going to fashion shows to see how the designers' vision comes to life.

By being an FGI Student Member, Jeremy hopes to gain knowledge from the people he meets in The Fashion Group International. He says he wants to gain friendships with people who share the same interests in the fashion world. He hopes to network with some people who could help him achieve his goals in the fashion industry.

***“Crisis doesn’t develop character; crisis reveals character.”***

Author unknown



## Student Membership Program

### WELCOME TO OUR STUDENT MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

#### Laura Figueroa

Laura is our newest Student Member. She is a student at Houston Community College—central—and will be graduating in the fall of 2009.

Laura says her career goal is “obtaining a fashion line with my original designs and working with top designers around the world”. Laura says that having the opportunity to create your ideas into a garment is amazing; it’s like creating a piece of art. She says that is exactly what she wants to do in life.

Laura hopes to meet many people in the fashion industry and learn from them.

#### STUDENT MEMBER

#### STUDENT MEMBER

#### STUDENT MEMBER

*“If you really know what you want out of life,  
it’s amazing how opportunities will come to enable you to carry them out.”*

*John M. Goddard*

## OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THE MONTH

**The FGI Outstanding Member of the Month is chosen based on:**

- \*His/her contribution to the improvement and growth of the Houston Region and
- \*His/her go-give spirit.

We are very proud of our FGI Outstanding Members!

### Stephanie Talafuse—July 2008 Member of the Month



**STEPHANIE STENZEL TALAFUSE - President of Premiere Promotions, Inc.**

Stephanie has been active in the modeling and pageant industry for over 25 years. She has held many pageant titles and has traveled to Europe, gaining valuable hands-on experience in the modeling world. She started Premiere Promotions in June 1992 and has since choreographed numerous local, state and national pageants and produced fashion shows in Mexico and all around Texas. She has worked with countless companies coordinating contests, pageants, special events and promotions. She has an extensive background in runway, commercials and promotional modeling and her goal is to be the largest modeling and promotions company in Southeast Texas. In her spare time she loves to karaoke, travel and spend time with her husband and fourteen year old son.

Stephanie Stenzel Talafuse  
**Premiere Promotions, Inc.**  
 5757 Westheimer Suite 104  
 Houston, TX 77057  
 713-699-9858 wk  
 713-695-2353 fax  
[www.premierepromotions.net](http://www.premierepromotions.net)  
[www.myspace.com/promo1](http://www.myspace.com/promo1)

Stephanie has made so many contributions to FGI. She serves on the FGI Board of Directors and is heading up our Program Committee.

Stephanie works diligently to help make our programs a huge success. She is a wealth of information and is unbelievably organized when it comes to putting on a program!

Stephanie has also brought us many of our members and is helping with our endeavor to bring in more members in the beauty industry.

Stephanie Talafuse is always willing to give to FGI—and everything she does, she does with a smile.

## OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THE MONTH

### Dusty Gilbert—August 2008 Member of the Month



Dusty Gilbert is an International Studies Graduate from the University of St. Thomas. With professional experience in print publications, the non-profit sector, website development, and the real estate industry, she is currently a writer, a local columnist, Editor of skirt! Houston Online and the founder and president of bareHouston. In addition, Dusty sits on the Board for Fast Forward, Intown's Organization of Young Professionals, the Alumni Marketing Board for University of St. Thomas, the Young Professionals Board for Literacy Advance of Houston and is active in multiple community/charity initiatives. In her spare time, she enjoys fashion, design, website development, celebrity magazines, bike riding, yoga, shopping and spending time with loved ones. To learn more, ask her...

[dusty.gilbert@skirt.com!](mailto:dusty.gilbert@skirt.com)

Dusty Gilbert  
Founder & President,  
**bareHouston**  
Editor, **skirt!Houston**  
2101 Winter Street, Studio 31  
Houston, TX 77007  
[dusty@barehouston.com](mailto:dusty@barehouston.com)  
[dusty.gilbert@skirt.com](mailto:dusty.gilbert@skirt.com)  
p: 800.781.0136 x 0  
f: 800.781.0136 x 104  
m: 281.236.3023

Dusty came on the FGI Board of Directors this year and what an asset she has been! Dusty always has a smile on her face and is always willing to go beyond the call of duty to lend a helping hand.

Dusty has been working tirelessly to create an FGI website—which will be the website behind the website! [www.houston.fgi.org](http://www.houston.fgi.org) will always be our official website, but this new website will enable us to offer members access to much, much more with just a click of the mouse. Among its other features, it will have pictures from our events which you will be able to copy and make copies of for yourself. It will also have an area where we can list member events.

We will let everyone know when the website is up and running!

Thank you Dusty!

## OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THE MONTH

### Susan Fruit—October 2008 Member of the Month



Susan Fruit, ASID CGR  
 President and CEO  
 Susan Fruit Interiors  
 148 Elmont Drive  
 Houston, TX 77095  
 p: 281.463.2972  
 f: 281.463.6138  
 m: 713.817.6565

[susan@susanfruitinteriors.com](mailto:susan@susanfruitinteriors.com)

Susan Fruit ASID, CGR is an award winning interior designer and certified graduate remodeling contractor with 35 years of professional interior design experience. She has designed homes in Texas, California, Florida and in South America and her work has been published in numerous design magazines. Her interior design and home remodeling company, Susan Fruit Interiors, has won several prestigious home renovation awards as well as the Better Business Bureau's Pinnacle Award of Excellence for outstanding customer service.

Susan is the founder, former director and was the principal design instructor of a four year Interior Design Certification Program at the University of Houston. She is a graduate of Purdue University with a degree in Interior Design and has an extensive background in architectural history and landscape design.

A passionate design educator, Susan frequently teaches interior design and home remodeling courses at The Women's Institute as well as through her own seminar company, Design Transformations. In her design seminars, Susan reveals the secrets of how professional designers create beautiful breathtaking rooms, from timeless traditional to classic contemporary. She instills in her students the design knowledge and confidence they need in order to do it right the first time. She also offers a series of popular Design-On-The-Go bus tours to unusual and unique local decorating shops and design resources.

Susan is also a published author and has written numerous articles on interior design, architecture, and landscape design for several shelter magazines. As a professional speaker, she frequently speaks at national conventions and design trade associations throughout the United States and Canada. She is also featured in the motivational book, *Conversations on Success*, which highlights her career.

Susan deserves every minute of being **Outstanding Member of the Month**. I have never seen anyone work as hard as she has worked for our Home Design Event. She raised almost \$10,000 in sponsorship money for the event (a first for FGI—Houston). We were so excited about this event, but Hurricane Ike had other ideas for when this event would take place. It has now been re-scheduled for December 3rd, and we are so fortunate that our speaker and almost all of our sponsors were able to adjust their calendars for the new date.

In addition to all her work on the Home Design Event, Susan is the FGI Delegate for The Federation of Professional Women, which involves attending monthly meetings and representing FGI in the Federation's many events. Susan also serves on the FGI Board of Directors as Secretary.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- October 16** ..... ***Fashion Flock***—Caruggi’s  
Sponsored by Monica Pesek  
Featuring Helen Perry and Dallas Hill
- October 25** ..... ***FGI Retreat*** at the home of Carla Kay
- November 8** ..... ***Breakfast with Donald***  
Donald Pliner will address the latest shoe trends  
**MEMBERS ONLY**
- November 19** ..... ***The Ten Beauty Must Have’s For the Holidays***  
Neiman Marcus
- December 3** ..... ***Home Furnishing Trends Event***
- December 10** ..... ***FGI Holiday Party and Annual Meeting***  
Awards  
Election of the 2009 FGI Board of Directors  
**MEMBERS ONLY**

### FGI EVENTS

For information about the event and to make reservations:

[www.houston.fgi.org](http://www.houston.fgi.org)

**“Style can’t be purchased.”**

*Andy Spade,*  
Husband of Style Guru, Kate Spade

## Student Membership Program

**You want to be in the exciting fashion industry!** The Houston Region of The Fashion Group International provides a Student Program just for you. It provides you with the opportunity to learn more about the industry and become involved in fashion events.

FGI is a forum and a force for promoting the advancement of women and men in the fashion industries . . . apparel, accessories, beauty and the home. Our events bring your world into prominence providing information – and answers – on business topics that affect you and your business. We meet the executives and entrepreneurs who drive the fashion world. We deliver news, previews and trend information now – when you need it.

Founded more than 60 years ago, FGI was fashion's first non-profit organization established by and for women. Our founding members were none other than Elizabeth Arden, Edith Head, Eleanor Roosevelt, Helena Rubenstein and Carmel Snow, who had the foresight and who believed that the business of fashion needed a forum and a catalyst to ensure that women would have an ever expanding role in the developing of the US fashion industry. Today, we welcome men among our ranks! We're located in 44 cities worldwide, 6000 members strong – and still growing, still evolving to meet your needs. Each region has a distinctive character and unique involvement in their community.

### There are many benefits from joining the FGI Student Program.

You will be part of an exclusive group. Student Membership is limited to just a few members.

You will learn more about the fashion industry.

You have the opportunity to connect with people in your chosen field.

You will receive FGI Bulletins and information about Houston and FGI events.

You will receive discounted rates for at least 4 events per year.

### Qualifications for Student Membership

Student must have completed 24 credits.

Student must have a minimum 3.5 GPA and is required to carry at least 12 credits a semester. Verification documentation must be submitted at the time of application.

Student must submit two faculty recommendations or reference letters.

### Responsibilities

Assist at FGI events, including Career Day.

Get to know FGI members and find ways to become involved with those in your chosen field.

### Dues

The annual dues for Student Membership are \$25 per year.

### Our Student Membership Program is currently limited to 10 members.

Other than programs specifically designed for students, such as Career Day, attendance by students is limited to **STUDENT MEMBERS** only.

If you are interested in becoming a student member of FGI, please contact

Josephine Gough at 713.467.3988 or Jeanette Coon at 713.467.3988.

Jeanette Coon  
Regional Director—  
Houston

12311 Huntingwick Drive  
Houston, TX 77024  
713-467-3988—office  
713-935-0303—fax  
713-870-2161—cell

jeanette@professional-  
polish.com

[www.fgi.org](http://www.fgi.org)

**“Fashion is architecture: it is a matter of proportions.” Coco Chanel**

## **HOW WE BEGAN**

Founded in the 1930s the first non-profit fashion organization established by and for women. The Fashion Group International today offers membership to men and women alike. **Elizabeth Arden, Edna Woolman Chase, Lily Daché, Edith Head, Claire McCardell, Virginia Pope, Eleanor Roosevelt and Carmel Snow** were among the founding members; legendary figures who left an indelible print on the American Fashion landscape.

## **WHO WE ARE**

The Fashion Group International is a global, non-profit organization of dynamic professionals, men and women of achievement and influence in all areas of the fashion and design related industries: apparel, accessories, beauty and home.

## **WHAT WE DO**

The FGI mission is to be the preeminent authority on the business of fashion and design, and to help its members become more effective in their professional lives. FGI offers insights on major trends in person, online and in print; hosts programs and business symposiums; provides access to industry leaders and peers.

## **AS A MEMBER**

**Publications:** The International Membership Directory, an invaluable resource, lists all FGI members around the world. The Members' Bulletin reports regularly on the latest trends and industry issues that help members market and manage their businesses while it updates readers on member related news. The RTW Trend Report publishes twice-yearly straight-from-the-runway commentary.

**Website:** The FGI online community includes comprehensive news, event information, fashion and business reports 24/7. Updated daily, the members-only Fashion Access Network features members' profiles. Executive Job Bank, forums and more.

**Chapter Events:** Our member only industry events (retail trends, informational seminars, and panels designed for decision makers, IPOs, etc.) keep you informed.

**Our Networking Opportunities** are limitless. Use our directory to maximize business trips by networking with potential clients, suppliers, and manufacturers among the FGI membership worldwide.