

President's Message

Dr. Mike Goatley

Goatley@vt.edu



M2MEDIA360

PRESIDENT/CEO

Marion Minor

VP OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

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SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

Joanne Juda-Prainito

VICE PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mary Jo Tomei

DIRECT MAIL LIST SALES

Cheryl Naughton 678-292-6054
cnaughton@m2media360.com

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

Phone 845-856-2229 Fax 845-856-5822

REPRINTS

Cheryl Naughton 678-292-6054
cnaughton@m2media360.com

Account Representatives:

Leslie Palmer

16267 W. 14 Mile Rd., Ste 202
Beverly Hills, MI 48025

Ph: 248-530-0300,
ext. 1402

lpalmer@m2media360.com

Bruce Loria

626 Wilshire Blvd., Ste 500
Los Angeles, CA 90017 • Ph: 213-596-7226
bloria@m2media360.com

Classified Sales/Marketplace:

Glenn Datz

Phone: 213-596-7220
Fax: 213-624-0997
gdatz@m2media360.com

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President-Elect Martin Kaufman, CSFM, resigns

STMA IS AN EVER-EVOLVING ASSOCIATION, but also one that pays very close attention to its governing foundation by following of its bylaws, its SOPs, and its strategic plan. One thing that we always discuss in our quarterly Board meetings is our desire to remain fully transparent in our activities and decisions on membership's behalf. Let me assure you that transparency and adherence to bylaws remains at the Board's forefront even though it means we sometimes must make uncomfortable decisions as related to our colleagues and friends; such was the case in the summer of 2012.

Due to his acceptance of a commercial position this summer, President-Elect Martin Kaufman, CSFM, has resigned from the Board of Directors. It was very difficult for the Board to recommend and then accept the resignation from the Board of someone that we each consider a friend and an exceptional Board member in Marty. However, it also made each of us very proud in how Marty conducted himself as a total professional during all of our discussion and fact-finding periods regarding his new position. Marty was deeply honored to have been elected by membership to serve as President, but he ultimately placed the needs of STMA above his personal desires.

Marty, there is no doubt in my mind that you would have been a great President. However, what you have done in being so graceful and considerate of others and STMA's governance policies in your situation has shown us that true leadership does not come from the position but it most definitely comes from the person. On behalf of the Board and STMA membership, Martin, thanks for your commitment, your professionalism, and your willingness to continue to lead STMA in different ways.

I ask that you please consider self-nominating or nominating a deserving colleague for a variety of awards, grants, and scholarships that have an October 15 deadline. In this month's issue on page 42 you will find descriptions and calls for nominations for our Founders, Field of the Year, and Innovative Awards, as well as the Mellor and Vanden Berg grants and a variety of student scholarships. Each of these awards identifies and recognizes the brightest stars in our business.

After having served on the FOY committee several years ago, and now having the privilege of evaluating Founders Award candidates, I have had the chance to observe first-hand how the level of competition continues to rise each year as our membership's skills and abilities climb as well. I relish the privilege of having a vote in selecting our Founders Award winners and I know that all that serve on STMA selection committees for other awards and scholarship winners also appreciate the challenge of making difficult choices from such highly qualified applicants. So, don't be shy... remember what Dizzy Dean said "It ain't braggin' if you can back it up." Please take a few moments to develop your own nomination or that of a worthy peer so that some well-deserved recognition can be received at STMA's 2013 Awards Banquet in Daytona Beach. ■

Mike Goatley