

January 2018 Newsletter

Note from your Chapter President

Why are accountants always so calm, composed, and methodical? They have strong internal controls!

Welcome to 2018 and the 4th year of the El Paso Area Chapter of the ACFE! This is the first quarterly newsletter and we hope you enjoy the content. By sending out a quarterly newsletter, we aim to keep you informed about the latest chapter news, events, and members. Cheers to another year of connecting with professionals that share the same fraud-fighting interest as you. Enjoy!

Anthony Morales, CFE
President, El Paso Area Chapter of the ACFE

2017 Annual Meeting

December 5, 2017, we had our 2017 Annual Membership Meeting, which included presentation of scholarship funds donated by you, our members, to the Ritchie-Jennings Memorial Scholarship Program. The program supports the education of students who have an interest in pursuing a career in fraud examination. Visit <http://www.acfe.com/scholarship.aspx> for more information.



The meeting also included the election of [new chapter officers](#), and a total of eight CPEs. Topics were Ethics and the Anti-Fraud Professional presented by **James D. Ratley, CFE, President of the National ACFE**; and Evolution of a Credit Union Fraud, Discovery to Prosecution presented by NCUA, Lillie & Company, and the FBI. A great learning and networking experience for all who attended. The trainings scored an average review rating of 3.75 out of 4. Participant comments included:

- This is my first time attending a conference with you all, and I LOVED it!!! Very educational and lots of information. I will be enrolling and hopefully getting my CFE. Thank you :)
- Loved the personal stories. They were funny and interesting.
- I sincerely benefit from attending these trainings as they are necessary information for my skill development.
- Wow! Always pleased to hear Mr. Ratley speak and more so in El Paso!

Upcoming Events

Membership Drive In full swing! [2018 Membership Application](#)
Submit by 2/28/18 to enter drawing for 2017 Fraud Examiners Manual giveaway!

April 23

Fraud: Advanced Concepts for Auditors and Fraud Examiners
[More Info](#)

May 19

Member social – El Paso Chihuahuas
Details coming soon!



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Member Spotlight



Anthony Morales, CFE

Helen of Troy, Financial Planning & Analysis

What do you enjoy most in your current position?

I currently have the opportunity to provide financial system support to users across the entire company. Since Helen of Troy is a global organization, I'm able to work with individuals from various locations, including Switzerland and Hong Kong. The people aspect of my job is something that I enjoy. I like resolving complex issues and building relationships, and I'm fortunate to perform both in my current position.

How did you become involved with the El Paso ACFE and/or auditing?

The first ACFE event I attended was a training on data analytics and Benford's Law. This was my first professional training and I didn't know what to expect; phew, was I in for a treat! After signing in, attendees received a signed copy of Dr. Nigrini's book, *Forensic Analytics*. Dr. Nigrini is a wonderful instructor and has an awesome sense of humor! The Officers also took the time to recognize my recent achievement of becoming a CFE and present me with an ACFE Challenge Coin and ACFE Portfolio Pad.

To top things off, the food was delicious! I was immediately hooked and knew there was something special about the Chapter and its emphasis on quality training and member experience.

If you were not an accountant, what would you be?

Astronaut! On top of researching and performing calculations, there would be possible opportunities to fly into outer space! I get lost in my own thoughts for hours just trying to fathom space and all the marvelous wonders out there. I'm Sirius-ly amazed by the cosmos and constellations!

What is one interesting fact that people would be surprised to know about you?

I think people would be surprised to know that I've been working for 16 years. I started my first job a month after I turned 15 and have been in the workforce ever since.

What do you like to do outside of work?

My parents have always emphasized the importance of family to my four siblings and I, so when I'm not working or studying, I'm spending time with family. My daughter and I enjoy outdoor activities, visiting her cousins, and watching movies. I also enjoy physical activities such as working out, playing sports, and running.

What advice would you give to other ACFE professionals or those considering a career in accounting?

Get comfortable with being uncomfortable. We know our true limits once we venture out into waters not yet travelled. Attend plenty of networking events and workshops, even if you don't know anyone. You will be surprised how quickly you can establish new connections, refine your communication skills, and expand your knowledge. As accountants, we're perceived to be introverts; when you practice getting out of your comfort shell, you arm yourself with the ability to discuss various matters with individuals and groups at all levels. This concept will help build confidence, which is always great to have!

Your Chapter in the Community

The chapter has a committee dedicated to community service. Last year we had several drives for donations for AOY elementary. Thanks to your donations and you spreading the word about the drives, we were able to provide many students with shoes, sweaters, and school supplies.

Tools

[CFE Exam Preparation](#) - Are you ready to earn your CFE credential? [Find](#) the product that best suits your needs.

[Find a CFE](#) - [Free search](#) to help you find fraud examiners throughout the world.

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