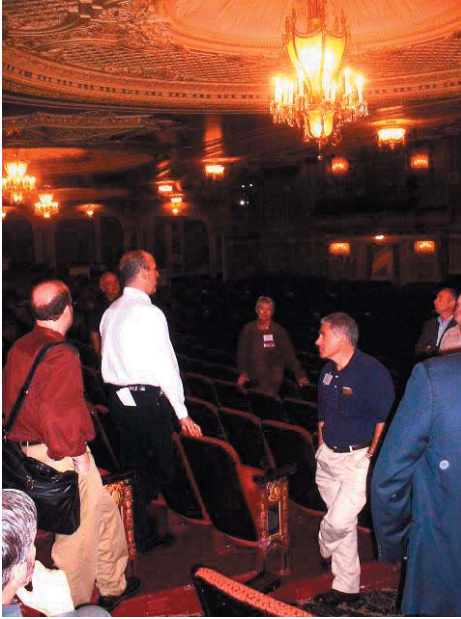


A DAY AT THE OPERA

By Brian P Folan, Midland Construction Corporation



The newly renovated Opera House at 539 Washington St. in downtown Boston was the focal point of the IFMA Boston program that took place on Monday, September 27th. The magnificent theatrical landmark opened the doors for a behind the scenes look into its multi-million dollar restoration project.

First known as the B. F. Keith Memorial Theater, a vaudeville showcase, the building opened in 1928. In 1965 the building was converted to a movie house and was known as the Savoy. Under the direction of Sarah Caldwell, starting in 1978, the landmark structure became the Opera House. In 1991 the Boston Opera Company bought the building, but, in the same year, due to financial difficulties, vacated the landmark structure and the doors were shut. Clear Channel, Inc. entered the picture in the late 1990's and purchased the dormant piece of history. After several years of planning and the overcoming of certain roadblocks, Clear Channel launched the Opera House restoration project in November of 2002. In July of this past summer, the Opera House, in all its grandeur, reopened with a touring production of the Broadway hit, "The Lion King".

Steve Marinelli, an integral part of the Clear Channel restoration project management team, served as our very knowledgeable tour guide. He took us through the entire theater noting the meticulous workmanship integral to bringing this magnificent building back to life. Detailed gold-leaf ornamentation, marble columns, French paintings, and almost all of the chandeliers were salvaged and brought back to their original state. Where there was irreparable deterioration, due mostly to water damage, construction workers and artisans used old photographs to help recreate parts of the theater that had disappeared. Tour highlights included the men's lounge with its 15th century "Italianate" fireplace along with the Versailles inspired hall of mirrors in the ladies lounge. Our very intimate look at this theatrical masterpiece took us backstage and culminated with the tour group's appearance on stage for a very special vantage point of the entire theater. Our day at the opera was quite an experience. Boston Chapter IFMA would like to extend a special thanks to the program coordinators responsible for putting this very impressive event together; Joe Flynn (Margulies & Associates), Eric Corbin (Archoustics Northeast), and Anthony Nardella (Union Office Interiors). IFMA Boston would also like to thank Clear Channel and Steve Marinelli for being gracious hosts.

WORLD WORKPLACE: A Students' Perspective

By Casey Tate, Lisa Daigle, Lauren Gahres

After signing up for the IFMA World Workplace in Salt Lake City we had no idea what to expect since we were so new to the field and to IFMA. What we thought was just a chance to skip a few days of classes turned out to be an exceptional opportunity and a valuable start towards our career paths.

While nervously attending our first event together, we felt completely out of place by being surrounded by mature, successful industry professionals. To our relief, everybody we met was extremely kind, welcoming and interested in learning about our facilities interests as students. One of our professors from school encouraged us to mingle and meet as many people as possible but feeling out of place made this difficult. Our nervousness was soon eased after we met a gentleman by the name of Scott Tibbo from the Boston Chapter. We clicked right away with his genuine, open, and funny personality. He helped us feel more comfortable with networking by introducing us to many people throughout the convention.

We are extremely thankful for meeting him and everyone else at the convention. We really enjoyed ourselves and took home some valuable lessons about the Facilities Industry. This opportunity exceeded our expectations and opened the doors for our future. After returning to our "real world" of classes and homework we soon learned how close-knit this industry really is. We all have contacted or run into people that we met at the World Workplace. We are excitedly anticipating next year's convention in Philadelphia.

ANNUAL FALL CFM BREAKFAST



John Kibbee, Amy Reiss Levitt & John Gallagher



Michael Pratt, Glenn Davis & David Shore

By Brian P Folan, Midland Construction Corporation

The annual Fall CFM Breakfast took place on Tuesday, September 21, 2004 at Nutter, McClellan & Fish LLP. There are currently 35 Certified Facility Managers who are members of the Boston Chapter of IFMA. The CFM Breakfast is held to provide information about this highly respected certification to existing and aspiring CFMs. There were 13 current CFMs and 16 aspiring CFMs in attendance at the breakfast. There were also representatives from WIT, Boston University, Northeastern University, and Massachusetts Maritime Academy on hand to provide information regarding their Facilities Management programs.

After a fantastic breakfast courtesy of the CFM Committee of IFMA Boston, Jim Downey III, CFM (Stride Rite Corp.) opened the presentation portion of the program with a brief introduction to the CFM process. From there, Richard Christiano (Harvard Business School Publishing), took a closer look at “the CFM process”. The certification process consists of 8 steps: 1. Meet the basic qualifications, 2. Check your skill level, 3. Take the on-line self-assessment, 4. Get the additional training you need, 5. Submit your application for certification, 6. Schedule and pass exam, 7. You’re a CFM, and 8. Maintain your CFM. All of these steps are explained in detail on the IFMA Boston website, www.ifmaboston.org.

The next presenter at the breakfast was Tom Dunn, III, CFM (Eastern Bank). Tom touched on the “opportunity” that the CFM designation provides. Having your CFM distinguishes you from your peers in the facility management profession. In today’s uncertain job market the CFM designation sets you apart from the competition.

IFMA National Chair Sheila Sheridan, CFM, CFMJ, CPM (retired: Harvard Kennedy School of Government) was the next speaker at the breakfast. Sheila spoke from her own experience on why the CFM designation is such a benefit and about the respect the designation conveys internationally. The facility management profession is constantly evolving. Being a CFM ensures the facility manager’s competency and commitment to the profession.

Kathy Demello, CFM (Gillette) closed out the breakfast highlighting volunteer opportunities that are available through the IFMA Boston Chapter. Some of these opportunities provide credit towards the maintenance of the CFM designation. Offering your services to one of the many committees within the chapter or taking part in one of the many local networks are just a couple of ways to get more involved with IFMA Boston. All the details about becoming more active in the chapter can be found at www.ifmaboston.org

The Fall CFM Breakfast was a very informative program. The CFM certification is truly a dynamic designation for the facility management professional. Boston Chapter IFMA would like to thank all of the presenters along with our gracious host Nutter, McClellan & Fish LLP. We will see everyone in May at the Spring CFM Breakfast.

**IFMA BOSTON'S QUARTERLY
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**The individual with the winning entry will receive a \$100
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