

# ewi CONNECT

## Chattanooga Edition

Chartered in 1987

January 2013

## Message from the President



HAPPY NEW YEAR!! This is my *favorite* time of year. There is no better time to dream about what the future may hold! Lynda Childress Hawks, one of our past presidents, said it best:

“So what about this New Year? What lies ahead? Well, I can tell you this, you never know when something wonderful is coming your way! I truly believe that. At any moment in time, you could experience the

wonderfulness of fulfilled longings and desires. I wish for each of you that this year is the best year that you have had so far. I pray that your businesses flourish, your families grow closer, your life is filled with love and laughter, and you experience many blessings”.

We all have so much, and with the love and support we all get from EWI, we can make anything happen! I hope everyone has an amazing year, and I hope that we all come together to make great things happen!

Sincerely,

Ani Yacoubian, Yacoubian Tailors



### EWI Spring Conference

April 18-20, 2013

at the Sheraton Read House

“All Aboard to a Positive Future”

Registration details coming soon!

### 2012-2013 Officers and Directors

**Ani Yacoubian,**  
Vice President/President Elect  
Yacoubian Tailors

**Kristina Smith,**  
Vice President/President Elect  
First Tennessee Bank

**Barbara Verhine,** Secretary  
University of Tennessee at  
Chattanooga

**Nena Powell,** Treasurer  
Lattimore, Black, Morgan & Cain, PC

**Cindy Ward,** Sgt-At-Arms, Courtyard  
& Residence Inn by Marriott

**Tammy Hargis,**  
Retention and Recruitment Director,  
MCA, Mike Collins & Assoc., Inc.

**Melissa Gratias,** Professional  
Development Director  
MBG Organizing Solutions

**Sharon Diegel,** Fundraising Director  
Miller & Martin PLLC

**Emily Kurlinski,** Communications  
Director, Classical 90.5 WSMC

**Michelle Withorn,** Director-at-Large  
EMJ Corporation

## January Chapter Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 8th

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Mountain City Club  
407 Chestnut Street

3 C's Focus: Careers

Speaker: Darin Wright,  
Elea Blake Cosmetics

Darin Wright is a local business woman finding success in the challenge of balancing professional, social, and domestic life. A New Jersey native, Wright graduated college and had a successful career in both real estate and lending. In 1997, she combined her creativity, entrepreneurship, and insatiable quest for perfection to found elea blake cosmetics in Chattanooga, TN.

Having accumulated over 30 years of experience in both fashion & cosmetics while working in some of its most reputable institutions such as Bloomingdales NYC and Saks Fifth Avenue, she has amassed a wealth of industry knowledge and experience in virtually every capacity; as a model, makeup artist, fashion show coordinator, wardrobe stylist, instructor, and speaker, she employed her knowledge and determination as she managed to build her business and simultaneously star in her most important role as both a loving wife and mother to the twin daughters for whom the company is named.

From its beginnings, the Elea Blake studio has expanded from its initial offering of custom cosmetics products to include skin care, personal color analysis, personal color makeup kits and an array of other products and services.

With clients now flying in from across the nation for her expertise, international online business flourishing, and a busy schedule of on-location visits to fill her days, it may sound dubious that she has a moment to spare. However, she still finds time to serve in her church and in other community service opportunities. When not working or helping others she enjoys spending time with Doug, her husband of 22 years, and lavishing affection on her three dogs, Mr. Bing, GiGi, and Kira.

### EWI To-Do List:

- Have a new headshot taken at our next meeting for your profile on the EWI website.
- Collect warm kids' clothing (ages 0-5) over the holidays for Soddy Daisy Head Start.
- Save unwanted restaurant gift cards for our No Dirty Dishes fundraiser.
- Explore [the new EWI site](#) and pass along your feedback to the Board.

### **Philanthropy:**

Items will be collected at the January meeting for the Daisy Head Start Center in Soddy Daisy. Throughout the holiday season, look for opportunities to collect sweatshirts, socks and shoes, hats gloves, etc. for children in need ages 6 weeks to 5 years old.



**Darin Wright, Elea Blake Cosmetics**  
[www.eleablake.com](http://www.eleablake.com)

## InfoSystems

*EWI Member Firm since February 2012*

Since 1994, InfoSystems continues to be one of the fastest-growing IT solution providers for enterprise and small to medium-sized businesses in the Southeast, with a unique business-first approach focused on technology optimization and return on investment.

We work alongside our customers to apply the technology that empowers their businesses to operate efficiently, securely and on-demand without interruption.

### Major Areas of Expertise

#### Data Storage & Management

IBM Premier Partner with IBM System Storage Specialty Elite, IBM System x Specialty Elite and IBM Power Systems Specialty certifications

Certifications and competencies in virtualization, cloud, hardware optimization, backup and disaster recovery, security

#### Infrastructure & Virtualization

Network design, optimization and security

Off-site accessibility

#### iAssurance Managed Services

Expert IT assessment, inventory, roadmap and budget

Proactive monitoring, maintenance, disaster recovery and support on demand

#### Software Services

Microsoft SharePoint consulting, development and implementation

.Net custom application development

#### VoIP Telephony & Unified Communications

VoIP Phone System implementation and support

Cloud, enhanced phone services, communication software and applications

InfoSystems is an award-winning company that has major partnerships and certifications with IBM, Microsoft, VMWare, Intel, Dell, Mitel and many other trusted vendors. For more information about our company, partners, and services, view our website at <http://infosystems.biz>.



#### The Executive: Clay Hales, Chief Executive Officer

Clay Hales founded InfoSystems in 1994. Having more than 33 years of IT experience, he is a recognized expert in IT consulting and solution design, having led hundreds of successful projects. His exclusive industry designations include serving as a member of the Global Business Partner Advisory Council for IBM and being a sought-after speaker for many industry events.



#### Theresa Bailey, Director of Human Resources

Theresa Bailey joined InfoSystems in 2004, having an extensive track record in Accounting and HR activities, non-profit, and operational and management experience. She has earned a reputation as a valuable professional who aligns company needs with timely human resource services.



#### Kate West, Director of Administration and Accounting

Kate West joined InfoSystems in 2008, having 18 years of accounting experience with The Krystal Company, Play and Park Structures, Koch Industries, and Enterprise Rent-A-Car. She has also founded two non-profit organizations: Caring to Educate and Young Professionals Association of Chattanooga (YPAC).



**Fundraising: Sharon Diegel, Miller & Martin PLLC**

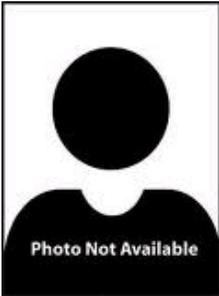
Thanks to all for helping us raise \$362 on our December meeting Door Prize Table! There were some very pretty things to be won.

It's time to get ready for our No Dirty Dishes for a Week fundraiser. Please start collecting gift cards, admission passes, bowling gift certificates, etc. so that we can create some great dining-out packages this year. Our drawing is in March this year (a month earlier than usual), so we need to get these donations turned in quickly!

If you receive a gift card for Christmas that you know you will not use, please consider donating it to No Dirty Dishes! Please call Sharon if you have any questions: 423.785.8415.

January Meeting Door Prize Theme

Our January door prize theme is "Wine and Cheese." Please bring in a bottle of wine, accessories, snacks, and anything you can think of that pairs well with wine. Let's keep our ticket sales high by offering some really cool door prizes!



**Sergeant-at-Arms: Cindy Ward, Courtyard & Residence Inn by Marriott**

December Meeting Attendance:

Members Present:	45
Guests Present:	17



**Philanthropy: Kathy Lee, DiStefano Eye Center**

This month's philanthropy project will support Soddy Daisy Head Start. We will be collecting numerous items (sweatshirts, sweat pants, socks & shoes, hats, gloves, etc.) for kids ages 6 weeks to 5 years. So with all the sales and after-Christmas sales, it will be a great time to pick some up...plan ahead...or get a "head start!" Bring your items to the January 8th meeting! Questions? Contact Kathy Lee at klee@distafanolaser.com.



**Tammy Hargis, MCA, Mike Collins & Associates, Inc.**

WEBSITE TRIVIA:

**List one benefit your firm receives from its EWI membership.**

Email your answer to thargis@mcollins.com for your chance to win raffle table tickets at our next meeting on December 11th!

**RECRUITMENT SPOTLIGHT CATEGORIES: Diversified Manufacturing, Confectionary Textile & Fabric Mill Industry**

Do you know any firms in these industries that might be interested in EWI? Invite them to January's meeting!

Announcements

**EWI Care Corner**

Please keep the following requests in your daily thoughts and prayers:



**Tom Williams (Priscilla Williams' husband)** - He's still at LifeCare of East Ridge and they're hoping he'll come home soon. He did get home for Thanksgiving. He was really counting on being dismissed last week and very disappointed that the staff want him to stay longer. Pray that he will get home very soon.

**Lauren (Priscilla Williams' granddaughter)** - She's serving in the Army in Germany where she will spend the holidays. She loves Germany, but it's very, very cold. This is Lauren's first time away from home.

**Dylan (Debra Gates' great-nephew)** - We praise God that Dylan has been told he is in remission.

**Cindy Ward**—We praise God for improvement, and we ask for His wisdom in her immediate major decisions.

**Don Dowdy (Father of Sharon Diegel's friend Joyce)** - He fell down basement stairs and was resuscitated and airlifted to Erlanger. He's on a ventilator and has lost movement below his neck. He has a feeding tube and family is trying to find a nursing facility that will take patients on a ventilator.

**Margaret Browning**—We pray for comfort for her family as they continue to mourn the loss of her daughter-in-law Misty, mother of Brianna, Margaret's granddaughter.

**Frances Cannon**-She is in Nashville with Chris and Cindy. We hope she'll come back to us soon!

**Joyce Harlin**—We pray she will feel well enough to enjoy the Christmas holidays.

**Betty Sue Joiner (Carolyn Stringer's sister)** - We await biopsy report on melanoma removed from her leg.

**Beth Robertson (2nd rep for Luken Holdings)** - Her mom passed away on 12/15/12; dad's health is failing.

**Thank You, EWI!**



**Melissa Mitchell, UTC Student  
EWI Scholarship Winner**



All announcements need to be sent to Emily Kurlinski of Classical 90.5 WSMC (emilyk@southern.edu) by the close of business on the Friday following our monthly chapter meeting.

# Announcements

## EWI Website Update

After a lot of talk, work, more talk, and a lot more work... our new website will go live on January 7!! We know you'll want to take a look: [ewichattanooga.org](http://ewichattanooga.org).

The new website has a searchable directory with a profile for each representative. After you have seen the public site, log in at the top right corner of the page, click "View Profile" (also at the top right), and check your profile for accuracy and completeness. Take a minute to add your photograph and company logo as needed. **It is each representative's responsibility to keep her profile up-to-date and to understand the Site Term and Conditions of Use.** (See About/Site Term & Rules.)

We will also register for meetings online, and we can pay for meetings and other events like Spring Conference and the Barnyard Auction online, too! (See Connections/Events or the calendar on the front page.)

Please use [ewichattanooga@gmail.com](mailto:ewichattanooga@gmail.com) to send an email to everyone, or just use the contact form on the website. Mass emails will continue to be moderated by the Chapter President or other Board members.

Let a member of the Website/History Committee or a Board member know if you have questions or suggestions. Thank you!



**Kristina Smith,**  
**First Tennessee Bank**  
**EWI Vice President/  
 President Elect & Chair,**  
**Website History  
 Committee**



And thank you, Nancy Harrison for all your hard work too!

All announcements need to be sent to Emily Kurlinski of Classical 90.5 WSMC ([emilyk@southern.edu](mailto:emilyk@southern.edu)) by the close of business on the Friday following our monthly chapter meeting.



CONNECTIONS | CAREERS | COMMUNITY

Executive Women International® brings together key individuals from diverse businesses for the purposes of:

- **Connections** - Promoting member firms
- **Careers** - Enhancing personal and professional development
- **Community** - Encouraging community involvement

Thank you, Angela Jordan for sharing your photography skills at our December meeting!



Left to Right: Alisha Stadden, Melissa Pierce, Rebecca Wilson, Pamela Fox, and Melissa Mitchell, EWI Scholarship Recipients

Registration is now open for the

### “Winter Wonderland Etiquette and Dining Camp”

The camp is open to children grades 2-5 and will meet Saturdays Jan. 12 to Feb. 9. Click [here](#) to register!



Absolutely Refined, LLC

“THE HOUSE OF ETIQUETTE”



“Like” our Facebook page to view meeting photos and receive updates about our chapter. You can also follow us on Twitter @EWIChattanooga.



### Quick Links:

- Member Firm Listing  
<http://www.ewichattanooga.org/index.php?mode=directorybrowse&sortby=alpha&toshow=999>
- EWI Corporate  
<http://www.ewiconnect.com/>