

## March IFMA Luncheon

### *What you missed*

The costs associated with construction have been skyrocketing. This panel and the moderator, Christopher White of Cushman-Wakefield, provided great insight into the current trends in construction costs – increases are slowing – and ideas to control costs for future projects.

Representing the constructors, Scott Moore of Humphries and Company, provided a number of cost statistics over the last couple of years to help us understand the situation. His primary recommendation for control is to develop the project as early as possible to gain maximum control.

Patsy Dobson of NEO, Inc. provided the project management perspective and suggested that use of experienced team members and effective team processes could reduce costs somewhat.

Rachel Blankenship of Sage Software provided the end user perspective and she provided several tips from the recent Sage relocation that aided in keeping their costs in check.

Overall, Chris summarized the session with three T's: Timing, Team and Tenacity. These three are all critical for successful construction costs control.

## New IFMA Atlanta Members Orientation

IFMA Atlanta held its New Member Orientation on Thursday March 15th. We welcomed 32 new and prospective members with great food, great weather and great conversation on the patio of Brio Restaurant in Dunwoody. We introduced all of the attendees to the IFMA Atlanta Committee chair persons and briefed them on what each committee had to offer.

Most everyone was interested to find out more about how IFMA serves the Facility Management profession through its educational development programs. Many were pleasantly surprised to find out that our chapter also serves the Atlanta community by taking advantage of the talents and resources of its members. They also seemed to take pride in joining one of the world's leading chapters, having won chapter of the year every time we've been eligible for the past 6 years. The overall theme of the evening seemed to be "you get out of IFMA Atlanta what you put into it".

