

LIFESTYLES

The Epicurean Foundation Charity provides scholarships for students

By Sandy Zimmerman
Las Vegas Tribune

Photos by Sandy Zimmerman

I was interviewing VIP's on the red carpet at the Epicurean Charitable Foundation's biggest yearly fundraising event and was impressed hearing that 1,000 people attended.

Stowe Shoemaker, Michael D. Rose Distinguished Chair, Dean of the William F. Harrah College of Hospitality School, explained, "The Epicurean Foundation is an amazing organization that gives four-year Hospitality scholarships to students. What's so great about Hospitality, there's so many choices. If you like finance, gaming, events, the restaurant side, beverage side, business, marketing, human resources, the law, hotel, or chef. Whatever you want to study you can study at the William F. Harrah College of Hospitality School.

"You can do exactly what you want. We have incredible mentor-ships and the fact that the Epicurean group is so involved with our college opens so many doors and can change a kid's life.

"We have a huge curriculum and we focus on hospitality. The youth of today will have the opportunity to find jobs that will never be outsourced and they can go anywhere in the world to work!

"Our school is working on Restaurant Innovation and new rest concepts, new menus and they are going to be involved in all of that. The restaurants in the future are being created by our students today.

"Restaurants are changing, it has always been about the food but now it is the experience and changes all the time. That makes it so exciting. One of our graduate students has a restaurant show on TV.

"The Epicurean Foundation sets the stage for the students to change their lives."

For more information, visit the website: www.unlv.edu/hospitality.

Kelley Jones, Kelley Jones Hospitality, a Charter Member, discussed his involvement in the organization, "We started the Epicurean Foundation Charity in 2001 with food and beverage professionals who had properties on the strip. In 2003, we decided to give back to the community and raise scholarships for Clark County High School students to use in hospitality and culinary



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schools.

"We feature hospitality which is very broad and each student is paired with a board member who mentors them throughout their entire time. M.E.N.U.S. stands for Mentor, Educate, Nevada, Upcoming, Students. We provide scholarships, find sponsors, and arrange a gala every year to raise money to give back to the students.

"I was a chef for many years before it was cool to be a chef. When I was a chef in the 80's and 90's, that was before food TV or celebrity chefs and being a chef was like being an electrician or plumber." Also visit www.Kelleyjoneshospitality.com

Chef Darren Walters, Assistant Executive Chef, at the South Point

Hotel, assists with all of their restaurant's and takes charge at night.

Chef Darren: "Tonight we're representing the South Point's Silverado Steak House for the event. They are serving Lobster bisque and short ribs but everybody walks around and tastes food from all the restaurants."

Martha Morales, General Manager, Nobu Hotel, inside Caesars Palace, Board Member of Epicurean Foundation Charity, and one of the recipients of the scholarships. Martha recommends, "Students should be authentic, hard workers, and do their best to help people."

Martha received her scholarship in 2005, a four-year Bachelor's Degree, working full time

while attending school full time.

She describes her management position, "The Nobu Hotel is a 182 room boutique, I am doing what I love to do! I studied hospitality management." Also visit www.Nobuhotelcaesarspalace.com.

Epicurean Charitable Foundation of Las Vegas (ECF) will endeavor to align the hospitality industry's affiliation with the community through support of the local education system and related organizations.

This body will utilize the collective resources of the local food and beverages and hospitality executives as a collaborative forum for the purpose of sharing ideas, knowledge and experience. Epicurean Charitable Foundation, 6765 S Eastern Avenue, Suite #1.

For additional information, call 702-932-5098 or visit the website: www.ecflv.org.

Award-winning syndicated columnist Sandy Zimmerman is a Show and Dining Reviewer as well as travel, health, luxury and more. Sandy is talk show host of Sandy Zimmerman's Las Vegas TV. If you wish information, have questions about any of Sandy's articles, wish to recommend subjects, call (702)-731-6491 or email Sandy at [www.sandyzimm2003@yahoo.com](mailto:sandyzimm2003@yahoo.com). SUGGESTIONS: Do you have a fave comedian, singer, musician, hypnotist, ventriloquist, specialty act, production show or any other entertainer? Let Sandy know your fave, the reasons for your choice, your name/email and you may win a prize. Email Sandy Zimmerman at sandyzimm2003@yahoo.com.



Chef Darren Walters, Assistant Executive Chef, South Point Hotel



Kelley Jones, Kelley Jones Hospitality, a Charter Member



Martha Morales, General Manager, Nobu Hotel, inside Caesars Palace, Board Member of Epicurean Foundation Charity