# COLLINS

A publication by The Collins College of Hospitality Management

SPRING 2017

# Bryan Allred

# Making Every Career Count

President of Sysco Los Angeles shares his recipe for success HOSPITALITY UNCORKED
HONORS WINE ROYALS
Gina Gallo and
Jean-Charles
Boisset

Do Pictures
In Menus Help?
FACULTY RESEARCH

FACULTY RESEARCH UNCOVERS THE TRUTH

DONORS FUND A
Half-Million
Dollar Renovation

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF HOSPITALITY LEADERS

#### COLLINS

A publication by The Collins College of Hospitality Management at Cal Poly Pomona

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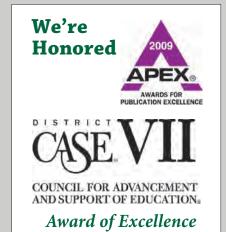
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# COLLINS

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# From the DEAN'S DESK



# FOSTERING INNOVATION

Greetings! The 2016-2017 Academic Year revolved around celebrating and encouraging innovation and forward thinking. In order to continuously and consistently advance, The Collins College of Hospitality Management finds ways to change with the industry to keep our curriculum and culture relevant.

This year, we renovated The Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch with a more modern look that reflects today's popular and successful restaurants. The renovation has reenergized the students who manage and operate the fine-dining establishment as part of their curriculum.

When our faculty are not in the classroom shaping the minds of tomorrow's leaders, they dedicate themselves to professional development and research to instill innovative ideas and lessons in students. This allows instructors to stay on top of industry trends and insights that can be passed on in the classroom.

With forward thinking in mind, we also redesigned *Collins* magazine in consideration of you, the reader. In this issue, you will find a feature on this year's Richard N. Frank

Distinguished Lecturer Bryan Allred, president of Sysco Los Angeles, who offered inspirational and esteemed advice that benefited both students and those already in the industry.

This issue has a different look and is designed to give everyone something that resonates. We are not only telling stories, we are sharing ideas, lessons, research and opportunities for advancement. Whether you are a current student concerned about transitioning into the workforce, a graduate eager to expand your network, or an industry executive looking to strengthen your business, there is something in here for you.

Enjoy!

Warmest Regards,

Lea R. Dopson, Ed.D.

Dean and James A. Collins Distinguished Chair The Collins College of Hospitality Management Cal Poly Pomona

The 2016-2017 academic year has revolved around celebrating and encouraging innovation and forward thinking. **J** 

EXPERIMENTAL INDUSTRY

BY PRIYA SHARMA

HE COLLINS COLLEGE STRIVES to help students attain their goals by providing opportunities to immerse them into the industry. One of the ways it does this is through the Experience the Industry scholarship, which is awarded quarterly to both undergraduate and graduate students and gives them the opportunity to attend an industry conference or trade show.

During fall quarter, 13 students got to experience the biggest hospitality hub in the nation, New York City. They attended HX: The Hotel Experience, North America's largest hospitality trade show for hotel and restaurant owners, executives, directors, chefs and general managers from across the industry.

Along with networking opportunities, students received insight into the industry's future. Akram Chahin, one of the scholarship recipients, shared what he took away from the hotel show.

"I was able to learn about the state of the industry and where it is headed by interacting with many companies at the HX 2016 show and by asking them about their vision for the next 10 years," Chahin says.

After the show, students attended educational seminars, hotel tours and a college-hosted dinner with alumni. This year, the group toured the New York Marriott Marquis.

"I think it's a great opportunity to see the real world, network with professionals and explore a fabulous city," says Carolina Sanchez, student services coordinator who works closely with Collins students to ensure they have access to every opportunity the college offers. "New York inspires them and opens their eyes to endless opportunities," she explains. "They get to see the hospitality industry on a global scale."

The students were honored to have been chosen to represent The Collins College in front of top industry leaders.

"This has been a life changing experience full of memories that will be cherished forever," says Chahin.











New industry standard combi oven

BY DIANA GARCIA
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOM ZASADZINSKI & GARCIA

# INVESTING in the EUTURE



Industry partners are making certain that Cal Poly Pomona's hospitality management students are at the forefront of the profession by supporting a half-million dollar renovation at The Collins College of Hospitality Management.

The project included a total transformation of the dining room of The Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch (RKR) and the upgrade of the college's demonstration kitchen, allowing future hospitality leaders to access professional-quality facilities and equipment.

"These renovations help keep us updated in times when technology is changing so quickly. As the future comes at light speed, the ability to work with new equipment places us in front of our competition," says hospitality management student Melissa Huang.

The renovations at the RKR were provided primarily by The Gettys Group, an international hotel architect firm, and R.D. Olson Development, a general contractor and construction management firm, specializing in hospitality, retail and office building.

The Don and Lorraine Freeberg
Foundation, a longtime supporter of the
college, generously funded the \$240,000
demonstration auditorium project, which
was executed by Cal Poly Pomona's
Facilities Planning and Management
Department. The foundation also provided
the new flooring throughout the RKR.

"With today's fast moving parts within the hospitality industry, overall pacing of renovations and redesigning are at an all-time high," says Dining Room Lecturer Jason Zhang. "The new renovation has provided the much-needed facelift that the RKR has been longing for. Psychologically speaking, individual performances are closely influenced by the specific environment that one is involved in, and the new renovation gives the students additional confidence."

Hospitality management student Rachel Watts adds, "Having state-of-the-art classrooms prepares us for professional jobs as we enter the industry after graduation. It means so much to know that our donors are really invested in our futures."





(Bottom) View from the Pepsi Beverage Laboratory in the RKR

#### **Renovations to the Demonstration Kitchen:**

- New industry standard culinary kitchen equipment
  - o Stainless steel refrigerator
  - o Stainless steel freezer
  - o New wok range
  - o New cast-iron grill
  - o New fryer
  - o New combi oven
  - o New blender
  - o New ADA-compliant hands-free hand sink
  - o New ADA-compliant mobile prep tables
  - o New height-adjustable mobile kitchen equipment stands
- New and upgraded audio-visual technology
  - o New cameras that capture and record live culinary demonstrations
  - o New confidence monitor for the presenter
  - o New projection screen
  - o New media credenzas to house a new blue-ray player, document camera, camera controller, recording devices and computer tower
  - o New control touch panel
- New mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades
  - o New state of the art hood with exhausted air (grease extractor) fan, make-up air fan, mechanical ducts, and fire suppression system
  - o New and upgraded LED lighting
  - o New code compliant grease trap



#### **MORNINGS OF MOTIVATION**

Board of Advisor and 1983 alumnus Paul Kramer, president of Farrell's Ice Cream Parlour Restaurants, came to speak to some of the college's brightest minds about his career journey, lessons learned, transitioning into the workforce and more. This Mornings of Motivation event is held each quarter with one of The Collins College's Board of Advisors and gives students a chance to interact with the professional and ask valuable questions.



#### CSU GRADUATION INITIATIVE CONFERENCE

The Collins College has been extremely successful at freshmen and transfer graduation rates and eliminating upper- division transfer under-represented minority opportunity gaps in large part due to consistent student career engagement throughout students' academic careers.

Dean Lea Dopson and Career Services Coordinator Ann Lara were chosen out of the entire CSU system to share what The Collins College does to achieve this. They represented Cal Poly Pomona and presented during the 2016 CSU Graduation Initiative Conference with university presidents, vice presidents and Chancellor Timothy White.

Dopson and Lara shared The Collins College's road to career success with a Disneyland inspired map that showcased "Collinsland" in which success toward graduation consisted of a journey designated by engagement areas including first year experience, student engagement, industry engagement, campus student resources and effective communications.

# NSWH REGIONAL confusion

BY PRIYA SHARMA

HE NATIONAL SOCIETY of Minorities in Hospitality's (NSMH) 2016 Western Regional Conference was hosted at Cal Poly Pomona for the first time.

"Because of the activity level of our chapter and the numbers of students participating in regionals and nationals each year, the national leadership asked if our chapter would like to hold the western regionals at Cal Poly Pomona," explains Lecturer Lesley Butler, NSMH's faculty advisor. "Of course we liked the idea and knew it would help promote our organization in our college."

The Collins College's NSMH chapter boasts over 95 members, making it the largest in the western region.

As an organization, NSMH intends to encourage more

minority representation within the industry.

During the conference, recruiters from MGM, Hilton, Four Seasons and Marriott International presented at industry panels, giving students insight into starting their careers.

Sabrina Luk, the chapter's president, discusses the benefit of attending the NSMH conferences.

"Our conferences are very networking-based. It's a chance to develop professional connections that help acquire internships," she states.

The event was catered by Tiffany's Catering, which is owned and operated by Collins College alumna Tiffany Darrell '05. Being a minority business owner, Darrell helped reinforce the mission of NSMH by exemplifying her presence and success in the hospitality industry.



# meet your COLLINS AMBASSADORS 2016-2017

This is the sixth year of the Collins Ambassador program led by Student Services Coordinator Carolina Sanchez. The ambassadors support the college in its recruiting efforts to high schools and community colleges and they promote involvement and volunteerism among their fellow students. They gain valuable experience working with a team of students, interacting with the public and developing leadership and career skills.





#### 2017 WESTERN CHRIE CONFERENCE

The Collins College of Hospitality Management was well represented at the 2017 Western Federation Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education Conference in San Diego this year. Two graduate student scholarships were given at the conference and both recipients, Vincent Weng and Tiziana Oggionni, were from The Collins College. Those in attendance were (from left) Associate Professor Eddie Mao, Assistant Professor Michelle Yoo, CSU Hospitality and Tourism Management Education Alliance Program Coordinator Jodi Braverman, Dean Lea Dopson, graduate students Tiziana Oggionni and Vincent Weng, James A. Collins Distinguished Professor MJ Lee, Assistant Professor Patrick Lee and Assistant Professor Linchi Kwok.

# SMALL BITES

#### THE SCOOP ON STUDENT NEWS

BY PRIYA SHARMA

TAKE A BITE OF THIS: Collins College students brewed up success in their academics, communities and careers this academic year. Rachel Watts represented The Collins College at the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Foundation Conference scholarship program. Additionally, she was awarded the Handlery Hotels award for the 2016-2017 academic year. Various students took the cake for their dedication, hard work, and leadership. Connie Chan, Kristen Rinck, Ruth Rivas, William Yu and Watts won the International Foodservice Manufacturers Association Education Foundation scholarship. Eighteen Collins students received the 2016 Hotel and Restaurant Foundation scholarship and were honored at an awards celebration in San Francisco. Their appetite didn't stop there. Hungry for more, four Master's students and four Collins Ambassadors volunteered at the 28th Annual Southern California Visitor Industry Outlook Conference. Attendees enjoyed a full day of panel discussions from tourism and economic experts about trends in Southern California. Having a sweet tooth for ambition, United Culinarians stacked up their skills at the annual pancake breakfast during Cal Poly Pomona's pumpkin festival. Nineteen students got to sample the industry as they volunteered at The Taste, the Los Angeles Times' annual celebration of Southern California's culinary scene. Students were able to network with industry professionals while experiencing the heart of LA's food and dining culture. Taking their own slice of success, 22 students attended the annual National Society of Minorities in Hospitality conference held in Jacksonville, Florida. United Culinarians chopped up some ideas to utilize pulps

and food waste at the ReThink Waste competition, an event they hosted themselves. In a Chopped-style competition, students teamed up to create dishes by recycling various food waste ingredients. As an icing on the cake, the Club Managers Association of America won the Chapter of the Year Award at the CMAA World Conference in Orlando, Florida. With all that

students have accomplished, it is no doubt that they will enjoy the fruits of their labor

(From left) Collins Ambassadors Lucas Smeets, Malia Silverman, Jennifer Khamphanh and Manuel Hernandez at the Southern California Visitors Industry Outlook Conference.

with a bright future ahead of them. After all, Collins College students are the cream of the crop!



World Conference in Orlando, Florida.

# making connections

#### Hospitality Career Expo has largest student attendance to date

BY PRIYA SHARMA

SEVENTY-TWO OF THE NATION'S LEADING HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY COMPANIES looked for new recruits at The Collins College of Hospitality Management's annual Hospitality Career Expo in February. Approximately 485 students attended making this year's expo the most attended by students. Top companies including Marriott International, Hilton Worldwide and Sodexo were among those recruiting students.

The annual event is intended to give students a jump-start in their careers by exposing them to top industry recruiters looking for interns as well as part-time and full-time employees. The expo not only served graduating seniors, but anyone who wanted to learn more about potential opportunities to pursue in the future.

"I got to meet companies that I didn't know I would be interested in," says Collins College student Manuel Hernandez. "The Career Expo is full of great connections and opportunities."

Recruiters selected two star students each to join them for the exclusive Celebration of Career Success reception after the expo. Sparkling cider and appetizers were served as students mingled with potential employers.



# CLUB SPOTLIGHT: ETA SIGMA DELTA



Rachel Watts and Assistant Professor Patrick Lee

BY PRIYA SHARMA

The Eta Sigma Delta International Hospitality Management Honor Society, better known as ESD, is one of the various active student organizations at The Collins

The international society was founded by a group of business school students from the University of New Hampshire in 1978 in order to recognize outstanding hospitality and tourism students. There are currently over 90 active ESD chapters throughout the world.

What distinguishes ESD from other student organizations, however, is that membership is by invitation only. ESD takes pride in its members who are recognized for their academic achievement, meritorious service and demonstrated professionalism.

Membership to ESD is open only to Collins College students who are in the top 20 percent of their class. The lifetime membership comes with a certificate, pin and gold honor cord during the induction ceremony.

"The key benefit of being an ESD

member is for the students to distinguish themselves in the eyes of educators, recruiters and professionals of the hospitality industry, which can be shown from the students' resumes," says Assistant Professor Patrick Lee, one of ESD's faculty advisors.

At The Collins College, ESD strives to support its community through fund raisers and volunteer programs. Members also hold tutoring sessions that offer academic support to students who need it.

"Our members know that while on their own personal climb, it's important to help others reach the top as well. That's what teamwork is," says Rachel Watts, the chapter's president.

She expresses the value the honor society brings to campus.

"ESD is a testament to the dedication of students to the pursuit of academic, professional and personal excellence, which is exactly what Collins College students are known for."













# Magic of Dreams

### More than half a million dollars was raised at Hospitality Uncorked

BY DIANA GARCIA

HE COLLINS COLLEGE OF
Hospitality Management
benefits from the annual gala
hosted by its Board of Advisors,
which raised more than
\$530,000 dollars this year.

Each year at Hospitality Uncorked, the college recognizes a prominent figure in the industry with the Robert Mondavi Wine and Food Award. It honored Gina Gallo, senior director of winemaking for Ernest and Julio Gallo Winery, and her husband, Jean-Charles Boisset, proprietor of the Boisset Collection, with the 2017 award.

Individually they hold vital roles in each of their family's wineries and have flourished in the industry. Together, the couple has created a wine dynasty and have blended French and American flavors and culture, bringing people together through the love of wine and hospitality.

More than 600 distinguished supporters and friends of The Collins College attended Hospitality Uncorked to toast and indulge in the "Magic of Dreams," which was the theme for the night. It was an evening of masked mystery and whimsical imagery featuring guest chefs, vintner tastings, surreal entertainment, live and silent auctions and a dance and dessert after-party to keep the evening going. From beginning to end, guests experienced bizarre and fantastic sights including mystical creatures, stilt walkers, Taiko drummers, an aerialist, a contortionist and a balancing act.

The night culminated with the presentation of the Robert Mondavi Wine and Food Award to the honorees who addressed the theme of dreams. Gallo expressed the importance of having a mentor to help her reach her dreams and reminisced about her mother who always believed in her. Boisset spoke about coming to America and the motivation from his family to build upon something great.

"What is so exciting in this world is to be inspired and to be constantly tantalized by a light that attracts you, that makes you want to do *je ne sais quoi* that goes beyond the norm," said Boisset. "The person who does not dream cannot achieve anything."

Funds raised for The Collins College at Hospitality Uncorked will help its students reach their dreams by allowing them to pay for books and tuition, to travel to industry trade shows and conferences, to study abroad and to gain opportunities that will help students excel in both their collegiate and professional careers.

A portion of the evening, Fund a Need, which was kicked off by a donation from Dean Lea Dopson, was dedicated to raising money for student scholarships. More than \$54,000 was raised in approximately 10 minutes.

"I am so proud of The Collins College and the abundance of industry support we receive from people who believe in our program and our students, the future leaders of hospitality," says Dopson.

# business

# BRYAN ALL BED

## MAKING EVERY CAREER COUNT

BY DIANA GARCIA

THE COLLINS COLLEGE OF
Hospitality Management welcomed
Bryan Allred, president of Sysco
Los Angeles, to campus for the 2017
Richard N. Frank Distinguished
Lectureship Series. Allred is at
the helm of a subsidiary of North
America's largest food service
distribution company. Sysco's global
supply chain spans 40 countries.

More than 200 Collins College students, faculty, staff and distinguished guests attended the lecture and gained invaluable advice about succeeding in the industry. Allred discussed his experiences with the corporation and gave students

tips on how to be an effective leader.

Allred has more than 20 years of broad business and leadership skill sets and heads over a billion dollars of top line sales. His ability to inspire a team in a growing business has proven to be a valuable and prized attribute.

"We were honored to have such an accomplished leader of the industry guest lecture," says Dean Lea Dopson. "He did a great job connecting with our students."

The event was this year's installment of the Richard N. Frank Distinguished Lectureship Series, which was established in 1988 to

enable respected industry executives to spend time teaching, lecturing and interacting with students. This not only provides invaluable exposure for students, but also enables leaders from the industry to improve the quality of, and assist in educating, new leaders for the industry.

Allred answered audience questions at the end of the lecture and agreed to sit down with the Creative and Editorial Director of *Collins* magazine to talk further about succeeding in both life and the hospitality industry. Here is his advice.

# SET GOALS THAT YOU ARE A LITTLE AFRAID OF

First, set a life goal, and then set a career goal. Don't let your career dictate your life. Your career and life goals should mesh so you can maintain adequate work-life balance. With that balance, you can make decisions based on your life goal.

"Figure out what it's going to take for you to get there and know you can do it. Then start to set up your coaches, your mentors or sponsors, and recognize the role they play in how they are trying to [make you successful]," says Allred.

Allred has been with Sysco for more than 18 years. He checked-off many goals from his bucket list and uprooted his family three times to get where he is today. His family supported him the entire way and has been pivotal to his success.

"I still feel like I'm early in my career as president and I still have more to accomplish with my career and life goals," Allred says. "My wife and I set goals when we got married and accomplished them. So when you [set your goals], set the bar higher."





# DON'T WAIT, GET YOUR FOOT IN THE DOOR TODAY

When you set a goal, you know what direction you want to head, so go have those conversations today.

"It will change the dynamic of the transition because you can say, 'Hey, do you remember me? I stopped by here a few months ago. I am now graduated and interested in being with your company," he explains.

Allred followed this lesson with a story about his first time visiting The Collins College and having lunch at The Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch. His server was an eager undergraduate senior named Michelle Barghash who was interested in the foodservice industry. After making

an impression on the Sysco team and collecting a few business cards, she later applied to the first open position with Sysco Los Angeles that caught her interest. She got the job. It has been a year since she joined Sysco and she recently applied for a promotion. Allred surprised Barghash, who was in the audience during his lecture, by making an announcement that she got the promotion.

"Michelle will start a career now with opportunities that are endless. Within a year or two, she will be in a great income because she has the passion to go out and make this happen," he says. "It's exciting for me to watch that happen."

## RECOGNIZE YOUR ROOTS TO GROW YOUR BRANCHES

Allred quoted Warren Buffett who said, "Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."

Recognizing your roots, the people who made you who you are today, he explained, is important in growing and spreading knowledge and wisdom. When you surround yourself with those people, you grow together. These people, like your family, set your foundation.

"The branches from your tree are the stories and people who

actually help you in your career," says Allred. "They are your bosses, your subordinates, your neighbors, your colleagues."

He considers Barghash, who he surprised by announcing her promotion at his lecture, as one of his branches.

"She is somebody who I learn from, who grows in the company and, hopefully, becomes one of our leaders."

## **GROW WITH YOUR CUSTOMERS**

Allred spends his days out in the field seeking opportunities with his customers. He refers to problems as opportunities.

"We do a good job here operationally so I don't need to go check that

out, but what I do need to do is see what happens when our trucks and cases get to the customer," he says.

Then, from the customer's prospective, he finds out how Sysco can

improve for them. At the same time, Allred has to figure out how to stay afloat in an ever-changing industry. As the industry evolves and customer expectations change, he finds innovative ways to meet industry needs and demands.

"People are always going to eat, but what's changing in our business today is that the customer realizes there's a big difference between what they used to want and what they want now," says Allred. "I think it's better not to fight it, but join [these changes]. Restaurants have to change with the industry, and when they are changing, Sysco is right behind them as the back of the house to their back of the house."

Sysco considers its customers the rockstars and they are their roadies. The distribution company helps customers become innovative and sustainable with products, techniques, processes and more. Sysco not only provides distribution services, but also offers customer solutions such as customized business reviews and consultations.



Sysco Los Angeles provided free Philly cheese steak sandwiches and braised short rib sliders after Allred's lecture.

# BE A GOOD LEADER WITH THREE STEPS

- 1. Change expectations: Tell your team they can do more and set higher goals.
- 2. Tell them, "You can do it!": Give your team the reasons, tools, resources and capabilities that you possess for them to reach their goals.
- 3. Help break down roadblocks: Clear the path for your team, allowing them to advance while trying to achieve their goals.

# LOOK OUTSIDE OF YOUR OWN FOUR WALLS FOR OPPORTUNITIES

"Restaurants are good at what they do in their own house," says Allred.

When restaurants, or any other facet of the hospitality industry,

have a circle of people that bring together ideas, suggestions and opportunities, it becomes more of a team or partnership. You can find partnerships even amongst your competitors.

# FIND OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

Allred talks about problems but refers to them as opportunities. During the lecture, he focused on the bigger "opportunities" affecting our industry – labor cost and operational expenses.

"There are several areas that affect our industry with costs being at the top of the list. Sysco focuses its efforts on helping customers find new and innovative processes, products and trends. This practice not only helps our customers succeed but help Sysco grow," he says.

When several customers discussed the costs of purchasing wine and beer along with meeting required minimums, Sysco Los Angeles

responded with a new line of cost effective wines that have helped reduce costs, both in product and operational expenses, while helping Sysco grow in a new segment of the hospitality business.

"We help the industry by continuing to morph to what our customers want. Sysco doesn't sell wine anywhere except Sysco Los Angeles. We are in the wine distribution business because we have customers that are small enough that they cannot meet minimums and are not getting any attention from the major wine distributors," says Allred.

# CREATE YOUR OWN WORK-LIFE BALANCE

"It's really easy for a restaurateur to spend most or all of their time in their restaurant, but I think the industry is changing," says Allred. "I think it's changed enough that finding a good work-life balance is important to a company and creates a need to lean on people."

As a leader, lean on your employees or colleagues and trust that they are good workers. This might mean more employee-training.

He acknowledges the importance of having a good work-life balance, but says not to be disappointed if you are corrected in that balance.

"It happens to me often," he confesses.



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\*Donors identified with an asterisk are alumni of The Collins College of Hospitality Management.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** We strive to present all names and gifts accurately. If there is an error in any way a name or gift is identified, please feel free to contact Diana Garcia, communications and external relations specialist, at degarcia@cpp.edu or (909) 869-3151.

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BY DIANA GARCIA

OSPITALITY MANAGEMENT STUDENTS are typically drawn to careers in hotels or restaurants, but job opportunities can be found in any business, including professional sports venues. Three Collins College alumni have found their niche in the booming sports entertainment industry, which is expected to generate \$73.5 billion by 2019. Here are snapshots of their experiences.



### **COVERING HIS BASES**

One sport has been a lifelong passion for Manolo Licardie '15.

"I am a baseball fanatic. Becoming a professional baseball player was always a dream, but the older I got, the more I realized that it wasn't going to happen. Then I fell in love with cooking and never looked back," Licardie says. "When I was at Cal Poly Pomona, I realized I may be able to do the two things I love most and cook for a MLB stadium."

Licardie is the culinary supervisor for Levy Restaurants at Dodger Stadium and is

in charge of ensuring that all food is prepared and distributed on schedule, recipes are followed properly and portions are consistent. He oversees food safety standards and sanitation and visits every concession during games.

"I never knew how big of a role hospitality played in a sporting event until working at Dodger Stadium," he says. "It's very similar to a restaurant or hotel in the sense that you are there to make sure your customers enjoy their time there and would come back."

## A HOME-RUN INDUSTRY

According to 2010 alumnus Thomas Mendez, hospitality careers in sports have become a paramount part of the industry.

He is the director of concessions for LEGENDS at Angel Stadium of Anaheim and oversees all food and beverage, analyzes financial data and manages labor dollars and guest satisfaction on a day-to-day basis. He trains and certifies over 500 associates annually and is responsible for four managers with two layers of management to operate all hourly staff during events.

"We hire about 200 to 400 people every year. There's about \$60,000 to \$80,000 of labor on any given day," says Mendez. "People spend a lot of money in sports and the food and beverage experience is a big part of it."

It is not all about selling hot dogs and peanuts. There are high-end events that take place at sports entertainment venues, including events with catering and plated meals.

"A chef at a fine-dining restaurant can do all of these things.

Did you know we have fivestar chefs on board [at Angel Stadium of Anaheim]?"

Mendez says Cal Poly Pomona's learn by doing approach to education prepared him for his job. His training in The Collins College's professional cooking course and its restaurant operations series equipped him the most.

"My education prepared me to not be afraid or intimidated by my job in the real world."



## **CAREER FAIR SLAM DUNK**

During her senior year, Claudia Cruz '13 was fresh out of class in her culinary attire when chef Ernie Briones '92 encouraged her to check out The Collins College's annual Hospitality Career Expo.

Today, she is the manager of event suites for Levy Restaurants at the Staples Center.

She oversees 16 catering-style suites that accommodate anywhere from 12 to 150 people alongside 11 other supervisors, and

she also manages staff schedules, day-of-event orders and any issues that arise.

The catering team oversees about 230 events each year at Staples Center and Microsoft Theater, with sometimes three events in one day, including all Clippers, Lakers and Kings games. Plus, the staff works concerts and special events, such as the Grammy Awards, Emmys, the eight sold-out Adele concerts this past summer and the 2017

NHL All-Star Weekend.

During the Grammys, for example, Cruz says they served 6,900 pieces of sushi, more than 800 pounds of New York strip loin and 1,200 bottles of wine.

"Working at the Staples Center is like working in a restaurant catering department, times 100," Cruz says. "Though some events can be small, others such as basketball games or the Grammys are huge."





Dear Collins Alumni,

As the new Collins Hospitality Society (CHS) president, I am thrilled to welcome you all into the spring and summer 2017 guarters. I'd like to thank President Emeritus Jason Dineros '09 for building such an incredible team. The five new CHS Board Members that joined in 2016, no doubt, will bring action and well-deserved recognition to our alumni network in the coming years!

Our passionate Membership Director Sacha Tani '11 is excited to launch an ambassador program in key cities around the country in order to outreach to our alumni community beyond the Los Angeles area. This will build upon our existing 233 paying members and will grow the size of our chapter even further. With the support of The Collins College's Board of Advisors and Director of Major Gifts Gina

Johnson, Tani has identified five Collins alumni ambassadors who will host an alumni reception in each area. I'm excited to announce that New York, Chicago, Las Vegas, the Bay Area and Orange County are on that list.

Our enthusiastic CHS Vice President Joshua Aldama '10 and Communications Director Elisabeth Lockerby '12 will help you stay connected with our network and never miss out on another event by introducing our social media presence on Instagram (@CollinsHospitalitySociety). There we will feature our members, talk about upcoming events, post career advancement opportunities and updates on our alma mater. This is, to date, one of the most convenient ways to recognize and reenergize our daily activities and achievements.

One of the most memorable events of last year was the Ritual Brewery tour and tasting organized by Board Director Nung Rigor '00. The brewery's cofounder Owen Williams graciously showed 40 of our alumni around the facility and sat us down for an amazing beer and barbecue pairing prepared by alumus Ray Bishop '10 of Oak & Honey Barbecue Catering.

The next networking opportunity brought to you by CHS will be the "Night at the Ranch" alumni dinner in July. Join your Collins family as we network with old and new friends and honor Mr. and Mrs. Collins for their achievements and generous contributions to our college. This will be an incredible opportunity to reconnect and contribute to the CHS scholarship fund in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Collins. This scholarship fund benefits passionate students currently in the program who are following your footsteps.

Take a look at the exciting list of all the upcoming alumni events. Whether it is our traditional Professor for a Day program on campus or the ever-fun Alumni In The Outfield (which might be changing to Alumni in the End Zone) in the summer, you will certainly find something for your taste. However, if you are saving yourself for something very meaningful, make it the Senior Send-Off event on Thursday, June 8. You will not regret returning to campus for this special mixer to welcome new graduates to our alumni circles and help establish invaluable connections!

Warm Regards,

Lera Zelenskaya '09

President, Collins Hospitality Society

Lera.Zelenskaya@ClubCorp.com

Instagram: @Lerizee Phone: 818-917-2249



The 2016 Alumni in the Outfield game was held at Dodger Stadium for the first time.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### May 8-12 **Professor for a Day**

Alumni are invited to guest lecture in classes and attend a luncheon.

#### June 8 **Senior Send-Off**

Celebrate The Collins College's 2017 graduates and make new connections.

#### July 8 Night at the Ranch

The Collins Hospitality Society will honor Jim & Carol Collins.

#### August Alumni in the End Zone

Kick-off the 2017-2018 academic year and enjoy a football game with fellow alumni.

For more information, please contact Diana Garcia at degarcia@cpp.edu or (909) 869-3151 or visit www.cpp.edu/collins/alumni.

Find us on social media!













# tasting a ITILAIL

# Alumni toured Ritual Brewing Co. The Collins College's former Beer and Wine Professor, Owen Williams, invited Collins alumni out to

Professor, Owen Williams, invited Collins alumni out to Redlands to tour the co-owner's 23,000 square-foot brewery that houses a 30-barrel brew house.

Forty alumni attended the event, which included a beer tasting that was paired perfectly with a barbecue medley of tri-tip, chicken, pork-sliders and baked beans. Lunch was provided by Oak & Honey Barbecue Catering, a company owned and operated by 2010 alumnus Ray Bishop and his

wife, Mei Lee.

- Diana Garcia







# ALUMNI-STUDENT • **NETWORKING**

COLLINS COLLEGE, students know that networking is an important part of their careers. Along with education. The Collins College

BY PRIYA SHARMA works to provide students with opportunities to connect with industry professionals.

Earlier this year, the Collins Hospitality Society hosted its Alumni-

Student Speed Networking event to do just that. Students were invited to meet with successful alumni in the industry. With a turnout of approximately 40 students, the event was successful in providing new connections and opportunities for everyone.

The event consisted of over 11 alumni from different sectors of the hospitality industry. Students chose

HERE AT THE which sector they wanted to learn more about and were directed to the appropriate professional. "A big part of landing that job is knowing the right people," says Lera Zelenskaya '09, president of The Collins College's alumni chapter. "Our alumni value the education we received at Collins, but also the opportunities we were given to network with people outside

our curriculum."

Dinner for the event was provided by 2011 alumnus Peter Nguyen, owner of Broken Rice Food Truck.

## JOIN TODAY!

Stay connected with fellow alumni by joining the Collins Hospitality Society, Cal Poly Pomona's largest and most active chapter. To join, visit bit.ly/joincollinsalumni



The Collins Hospitality Society hosted its third annual ALIS Reception at the Jonathan Club in downtown Los Angeles. This event is held every year in conjunction with the Americas Lodging Investment Summit, the leading and largest hotel investment conference in the world.

# you are the PINEAPPLE

Three pairs of alumni tied the knot in 2016. The Collins College has always been a place where students can foster long lasting relationships with their peers. It is our delight to announce these newlyweds who started their journey at The Collins College. Cheers and best wishes to our alumni! - PRIYA SHARMA



## Brandon & Emily Heist

June 4, 2016

"We were both active members of multiple clubs on campus including RFP, ASEP, CMAA and CPHA. We were introduced by a mutual friend in September 2009. In March of 2010, we were reintroduced at a Caesar Chavez party at Brandon's house. Brandon asked me out for our first date in June 2010. We have been inseparable ever since and the rest is history."

### Anka & Neusha Raffijadi

October 9, 2016

"We met in the second quarter of the RKR series. Due to the nature of the series, our rotations were completely opposite. Any time I had a position in the Front of House, Anka was in the Back of House, and vise versa. Finally, during Week 7, Anka's management week, I was the 'floater' and was placed in the Back of House with him as his assistant. A few sparks later, we started spending more time together."

#### Lera & Sean Van Straatum

November 20, 2016

In the Fall of 2007, when Sean returned to school with a braided mohawk and Lera with neon yellow heels, stars aligned and they became close friends. Both thought that their hairstyle and wardrobe choices were totally appropriate for a Club Managers Association of America meeting. Such fashion statements also helped them understand that something special was there.



# Success Academy

Kris Cheung '04 is compelled to give back to the college even though he no longer works in the hospitality industry

BY PRIYA SHARMA

HEN IT COMES TO PLANTING SEEDS,
THE Collins College of Hospitality
Management ensures that every student
is able to grow and harvest the fruit of
their hard work. Not only does it strive to
produce leaders in hospitality, but leaders in the world. In
the case of Kris Cheung, The Collins College hit the nail on
the head.

Cheung, a 2004 alumnus, is currently the chief operating officer of Success Academy Charter Schools, an organization that manages 46 schools and serves over 16,000 students in New York City. Despite no longer working in the hospitality industry, Cheung donates regularly to his alma mater.

"I had an amazing four-year experience at The Collins College and received many scholarships. I have always wanted to give back," he explains.

For the alumnus, his college education meant more than a degree; it was his door of opportunity. Now, he wants to be that door for someone else.

Cheung is grateful for the support he received from his college mentors. He reminisces on how the faculty and staff at The Collins College have helped lift and shape him.

"While I left the hospitality industry almost eight years ago, I would not be where I am today without the amazing educational experience and guidance from mentors like Gary Hamilton, Margie Jones, Don St. Hilaire, Marie Porter-Royce and Donna Dannan, just to name a few," he says.

As a result, Cheung feels compelled to give back to the program that allowed him to flourish. He believes that donating to The Collins College is a way to invest in tomorrow's leaders. Being in the education sector, he is directly involved with building futures.

"I was the recipient of someone's generosity. The least I could do was the same. If I could just give back a little and help someone get through college, then I feel like I'm able to play a small role," he expresses.

Hospitality was never a one-track career for him. Instead, it was a winding pathway that led him to his passion. With the essential skills he learned as a Collins student, Cheung is now able to lead a \$250 million dollar non-profit organization.

"At Success Academy Charter Schools, our mission is to build exceptional, world-class public schools where children from all backgrounds can succeed in college and life," he explains. "Our schools are K-12, so giving back to students in college helps me personally fulfill this mission. Returning that investment to our future leaders is the least I could do."

As the seeds that a Collins College education plants in students grow larger every day, alumni like Cheung are prime examples of what allows the program and its students to excel experience at The Collins College and received many scholarships. I have always wanted to give back.



# Department Chair

ZHENXING (EDDIE) MAO

#### BY DIANA GARCIA

For the first time, The Collins College of Hospitality Management has appointed a department chair. Associate Professor Zhenxing (Eddie) Mao, a faculty member of the college for more than 10 years, has accepted the role.

As department chair, Mao will facilitate all faculty matters such as tenure and promotion, selecting adjunct faculty and scheduling of classes. He will represent the department on a university level as well.

Before Mao's appointment, Associate Dean Michael Godfrey took on the responsibilities of department chair in addition to college-level duties.

Because The Collins College has grown so much recently and continues to grow, there was a need for a department chair to facilitate student and faculty day-to-day operations. Mao feels he will bring value to the college and his colleagues.

"The Collins College is still small enough to have a family culture, but big enough so we can include all the necessary resources and opportunities to benefit our students," says Mao.

His appointment will allow The Collins College to better serve its students and faculty. The position will evolve over the next few years as it becomes more established and fine tuned.

"I want to enhance the positive working environment for our faculty members and provide great learning experiences for our students." he says. "These are my two main goals so we can maintain and achieve a higher position on a state, national and international level."

**GG** I want to enhance the positive working environment for our faculty members and provide great learning experiences for our students.



BY DIANA GARCIA

It is said a picture is worth a thousand words. When it comes to restaurant menus, this can be beneficial or detrimental.

Assistant Professor Wan Yang partnered with a marketing lecturer from Durham University in the U.K., and an assistant professor from Zhenjiang University in China to examine the joint effects pictures, food names and consumers' information processing styles have on attitudes, purchase intentions and willingness to pay.

While studies about the effects of incorporating pictures on menus have been published, there have been no tests regarding the correlation between photos and different types of menu item names. Their article, which contains results from their experiments and considerations for restaurant managers, was published in the *International Journal of Hospitality Management*, a top-tier journal in hospitality research.

Most consumers process information either visually or verbally. Different processing styles moderate the effects of pictures and food names in menus. Yang and her colleagues tested three hypotheses and came to some interesting conclusions.

#### CONCLUSIONS

1 Menu items with common-descriptive names presented with pictures are more favorable to consumers than those without the visual. This hypothesis was supported throughout their testing. Pictures enhanced attitudes and made consumers more likely to indulge in the menu item.

To get to this result, consumer attitudes and outcomes were tested by presenting various sample groups with menus of a common-descriptive named dessert with and without a picture. In this case, it was *Chocolate Ice Cream*.

**2** The second and third hypotheses focused on food items with ambiguous names. The same dessert using the ambiguous name *Waltz on Ice* was tested with and without a pictures.

Further, Yang and her colleagues identified which of their study participants were visualizers and which were verbalizers and compared how these groups reacted differently.

They concluded that for visualizers, menus with ambiguous food names accompanied by pictures may hinder their ability to integrate the mental image generated from the food name with the provided picture, and result in negative outcomes. In contrast, verbalizers do not tend to construct mental images when processing verbal information and they react positively toward the presence of pictures on menu items with ambiguous names.

#### CONSIDERATIONS FOR RESTAURANT MANAGERS

- Name low-profit items with common-descriptive names accompanied by attractive food photos to increase sales and profit.
- Use ambiguous names for dishes to increase revenue. When
  this is not an option, present that menu item with a picture to
  increase consumer attitude, purchase intentions and willingness
  to pay.
- Effectively design menus and adjust visual information based on food names and target consumers' information processing styles.

# Research & Innovation

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bit.ly/CollinsResearch

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF *COLLINS* MAGAZINE, faculty have continued to participate in reserach projects and attend conrerences for professional development. These opportunities bring innovation and the latest industry trends into the classroom. Research articles by Collins College faculty have been published in the following top-tier scholarly journals. Faculty and staff have also attended or presented at professional conferences and trade shows around the world.

#### SCHOLARLY JOURNALS

Anatolia

Cornell Hospitality Quarterly

International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management International Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Administration

International Journal of Hospitality Management

Inernational Journal of Tourism Science

Journal of Air Transport Management

Journal of Business Research

Journal of Creative Communications

Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Education

Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Research

Journal of Human Resources in Hospitality and Tourism

Journal of Teaching in Travel and Tourism

Journal of Travel and Tourism Marketing

Journal of Travel Research

UNLV Gaming Research and Review Journal

#### CONFERENCES/TRADE SHOWS

2016 Mountain Pacific Association of Colleges and Employers Conference, Denver, Colorado
2016 Euro-CHRIE Conference, Budhapest, Hungary
2016 ICHRIE Conference, Grapevine, Texas
Marketing Edge Research Summit, Los Angeles, California
22nd Annual Graduate Education & Graduate Student

Research Conference in Hospitality & Tourism, Houston, Texas Pan-Pacific Business Research Conference, Pomona, California 7th Annual KAHTEA Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada 14th Annual APacCHRIE Conference, Bangkok, Thailand 9th Annual Western Region National Academic Advising

Association Conference, Reno, Nevada 2017 Western CHRIE Conference, San Diego, California 2017 ICHRIE Conference, Orlando, Florida

California State University Graduation Initiative 2025 Student Success Symposium, Long Beach, California Americas Lodging Investment Summit, Los Angeles, California

2017 National Restaurant Association Show, Chicago, Illinois 2017 Marketing Executives Group Conference, Chicago, Illinois

2017 Club Managers Association of America World

Conference, Orlando, Florida

National Academic Advising Association Region 9 Conference, Reno, Nevada

## OUTSTANDING FACULTY ADVISOR: Michelle Yoo



Assistant Professor Michelle Yoo was selected as The Collins College's 2017 Outstanding Faculty Advisor. The selection committee used the nominations and comments provided by students, staff and faculty to select Yoo for this honor.

She serves as the The Collins College's curriculum chair and works diligently to get students the information and answers they need to make progress through the degree program.

"Michelle is an extraordinary teacher and advisor," said a member of the selection committee. "She brings so much experience and knowledge to the table and fosters the growth of her students."

Yoo joined The Collins College team in 2015. Her area of specialty is hospitality marketing, and she teaches Hospitality Marketing Management. She holds a B.S. in Hotel Administration from Kyunghee University, Seoul, Korea; her M.S in Hotel Administration from University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV); and her Ph.D. in Hospitality Administration from UNLV.

The Outstanding Advisor Awards recognize the exemplary efforts at Cal Poly Pomona to support student success. They recognize individuals and programs that encourage students to establish goals and objectives, offer practical and innovative solutions to students' problems and provide opportunities to grow professionally.

- Priya Sharma



Alumni make a comeback at The Collins College

BY PRIYA SHARMA

The Collins College welcomed two new faculty for The Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch (RKR) last fall. Dining Room Lecturer LaMarr Collins '10 and Chef Lecturer Antonio Muniz '05 completed the new instruction team, which now consists entirely of alumni who became successful leaders in the industry since graduating from the program.

Collins uses his 13 years in restaurantsincluding Red Lobster, Eureka! and Urban Plates, as a way to give his students insight into the industry. Working with the California Restaurant Association Educational Foundation in the past inspired him to motivate students.

"As a student, I got to learn about different sectors of the industry. Being on the other side now, I want to do the same for my students," he explains. "It's very rewarding."

Muniz has 20 years of professional experience and has worked his way up from line cook to traveling with Compass Group USA, a leading foodservice and

support services company that serves award-winning restaurants, corporate cafes, hospitals, schools and arenas, where he helped establishments create troubleshooting strategies to solve problems.

"When you can help people do a better job, that's when it gets really powerful. I go home and feel like I did something," Muniz says.

Collins and Muniz instruct the class that manages and operates the RKR for lunch. Their colleagues, Dining Room Lecturer Jason Zhang '10 and Chef Lecturer Sheree Mooney '09 are the dinner class instructors and Niloo Sarshar '13 is the RKR's culinary laboratory coordinator.

Zhang, was formerly involved in training development in the corporate side of restaurants. With companies like Lemonade, Starbucks, and Eureka! under his belt, he brings industry perspective to the classroom.

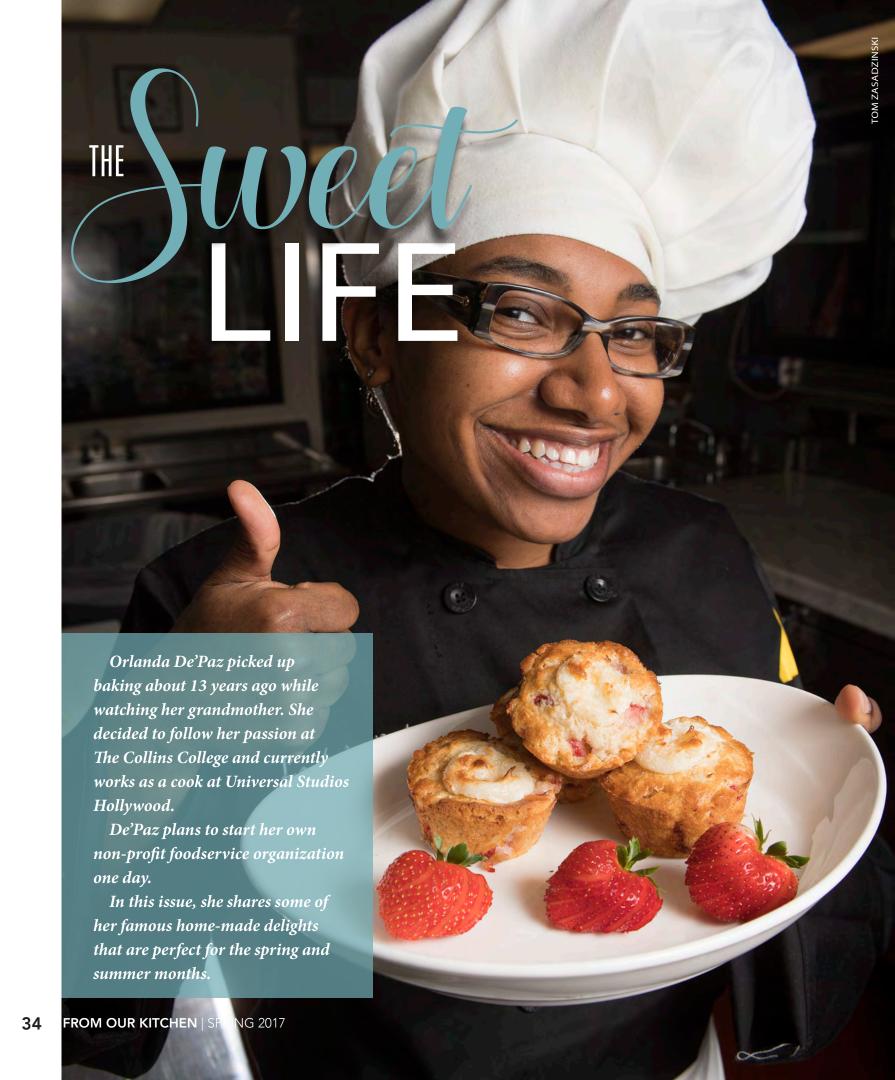
"I fell in love with the teamwork and relationships that come out of each class. When I left the program, that culture never disappeared from me," he says.

After graduating, Mooney was certified at the Culinary Institute of America in Greystone and was an executive sous chef at San Francisco's SPQR, which earned a prestigious Michelin star during her tenure. She continued to gain a competitive edge in the industry, learning the tricks of the profession before bringing them back to her roots.

"When I was a student, I knew I'd want to come back and teach," Mooney says. "I love the ability to mentor students who want to learn."

Sarshar, who works behind the scenes coordinating all of the restaurant's operational costs and purchasing, enjoys working with the students. She describes the skills that the restaurant series offered her as a student that she uses in her professional position.

"You learn things about managing that you can take with you anywhere. It's really a polytechnic approach," she says.



# Strawberry and Cream Muffins

Yield: 1 dozen

#### **INGREDIENTS**

2 cups all purpose flour

3/4 cups and 3 tablespoons of sugar, divided

1 ½ teaspoons baking powder

1/2 teaspoons baking soda

6 tablespoons chilled unsalted butter

1 cup chopped strawberries

3/4 cup and 2 tablespoons buttermilk

1 egg

3 ounces cream cheese

#### **DIRECTIONS**

- 1. Preheat oven to 400 °F. Grease the bottoms of 12 muffin cups or line with paper liners.
- 2. Combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda and 3/4 cup of sugar in a medium bowl.
- With a pastry blender or two knives, incorporate the butter until the mixture is crumbly.
- 4. Stir in the strawberries.
- Whisk the buttermilk and egg in a small bowl until blended and gently combine the buttermilk mixture into the flour mixture in the medium bowl.
- 6. Divide the mixture evenly among the muffin cups.
- 7. Dip cream cheese pieces in 2 tablespoons of sugar and place in the center of each muffin.
- 8. Press the cream cheese down until even with the batter and sprinkle the remaining sugar over the muffins.
- 9. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until golden brown.
- 10. Cool on a wire rack for about 10 minutes.
- 11. Remove and serve warm or at room temperature.

# **Spiced Apple Coffee Cake**



Yield: 2 small loafs

#### **VANILLA GLAZE INGREDIENTS**

34 cup confectioner's sugar (sifted)
 2 tablespoons milk (warmed)
 ½ teaspoon vanilla extract

#### **CAKE INGREDIENTS**

1 ¾ cups all purpose flour

 $1 \frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons baking powder

1/4 teaspoon salt

3 Granny Smith apples (peeled, cored, coarsely chopped)

2 tablespoons orange, lemon or apple juice  $\frac{1}{3}$  cups brown sugar

1 1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/2 cup unsalted butter (room temperature)

8 ounces cream cheese

1 ½ cups sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

2 eggs

#### **VANILLA GLAZE DIRECTIONS**

- 1. Whisk together confectioner's sugar, milk and vanilla.
- Adjust the consistency of the glaze by adding more milk a few drops at a time if necessary.

#### **CAKE DIRECTIONS**

- 1. Preheat oven to 350 °F.
- 2. Grease and flour a 9 inch cake pan.
- 3. In a bowl, stir together the flour, baking powder and salt.
- 4. In another bowl, toss apples with the orange, lemon or apple juice.
- In a small bowl stir together brown sugar, cardamom, and cinnamon. Add to the apples and toss to coat thoroughly. Set aside.
- Use an electric mixture on medium speed to mix together the butter, cream cheese, remaining sugar and vanilla extract until light and fluffy.
- 7. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition.
- 8. Add the dry ingredients in 2 or 3 increments and beat well until smooth.
- Using a rubber spatula, gently fold in the apples just until evenly distributed with no more than a few strokes. Be sure not to overmix.
- 10. Spoon the batter into the cake pan and spread evenly.
- 11. Bake for 60 to 70 minutes or until golden brown.
- 12. Place on a wire rack and allow to cool for5 minutes. While the cake is still warm, placeon wax paper and then apply the glaze.



#### **Chewy Oatmeal Cookies**

Yield: 1 dozen

#### **INGREDIENTS**

1 ½ cups shortening

 $2\frac{1}{3}$  cups brown sugar

4 eggs (beaten)

2 teaspoons vanilla extract

2 cups all purpose flour

1 ½ teaspoons baking sod

1 teaspoon salt

3 1/2 cups oatmeal

#### **DIRECTIONS**

- 1. Preheat oven to 350 °F.
- 2. Combine flour, baking soda and salt.
- 3. In separate bowl combine brown sugar and shortening.
- 4. Add vanilla extract, beaten eggs and mix.
- 5. Add the dry ingredients and mix until well blended.
- 6. Stir in the oatmeal.
- 7. Drop rounded teaspoons of cookie dough onto ungreased baking sheets.
- 8. Bake until golden brown for 10-12 minutes. The middle will look under cooked.
- 9. Place on cooling rack for 5 minutes and enjoy.

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