



December 2009

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the last issue of **The Pineapple** for 2009!

TISOH Hospitality Career Fair! Your Alumni Association is hosting their first career fair for the hospitality industry, to be held at the TISOH campus on February 25, 2010 (12pm to 3pm). This event will be open to the public from 12pm to 3pm, but TISOH alumni have earlier priority access. Mark your calendars!

Newly redesigned TISOH website! Did you know that the school website has been completely rebuilt from the ground up? The new site looks amazing and with many new features from better navigation to more information. Click [here](#) to see what is new!

TISOH celebrates Fall 2009 graduation! TISOH would like to heartily congratulate all the new graduates who received their certificates and diplomas on December 14, 2009 at JW Marriott Las Vegas. There were ninety attendees on hand to witness the achievements of another proud TISOH class. Click [here](#) for photos!

TISOH Alumni Association Holiday Mixer! On December 3, your Alumni Association hosted a fabulous holiday mixer at KOI Restaurant and Lounge. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces from alumni, current students, faculty and advisory board members. Special thanks to Destinee Walker, Director of Private Dining at KOI and TISOH Alumni Board member for hosting the event! Click [here](#) for photos!

TISOH Alumni Spotlight Interview! This month, we point our spotlight on Marissa Cronister, our TISOH campus associate and alumna of our Art of Food and Beverage certificate.

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*Congratulations
TISOH Graduates!*



Wishing everyone the warmest holiday wishes!

Sincerely,



Timothy M. Lam
Executive Director



TISOH Hospitality Career Fair - February 25, 2010

**TISOH
CAREER
FAIR**

Mark your calendar!

On Thursday, February 25, 2010, the TISOH Alumni Association will be hosting a career fair for the hospitality industry on campus. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to meet with employers! Bring your resume for on-the-spot interviews! TISOH students and alumni will be granted early access, before the public is admitted. **Click [here](#) to see the full announcement postcard, more details are forthcoming.**



What: An open-to-the-public Career Fair for the Hospitality industry featuring on-the-spot interviews with reputable employers

When: Thursday, February 25, 2010
12 pm to 3 pm (free admission)

Where: The International School of Hospitality
3614 E. Sunset Rd, Suite 110
Las Vegas NV 89120

**HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY
CAREER FAIR 2010**

FOR MORE INFO: www.tisoh.com/alumni.asp

CALL: 702-947-7200

EMAIL: info@tisoh.com

TISOH.com has a brand new look!

NEW WEBSITE



Come visit our completely redesigned website!

We have rebuilt the school website from the ground up to give it a fresh look for the new year. TISOH is now offering nine certificate programs in addition to the Executive Diploma in Hospitality Operations and the Diploma in Hotel Operations.

The new site features revamped navigation that makes it incredibly easy to browse and gather information.

For alumni, bookmark the alumni page for updates that relate to you. Past issues of The Pineapple newsletter along with other alumni events will be announced there.

As is our practice, more than 80% of the graphics and photography in the new website features our past alumni and faculty! You may see yourself prominently

Click [here](#) to visit the new website!

TISOH celebrates Fall 2009 Graduation



Congratulations to all the graduates!

On December 14, TISOH held its Fall 2009 Graduation ceremony at the beautiful Marbella Room at **JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort**. Among 90 attendees were students and family, alumni, faculty, guests, and distinguished advisory board members. The school would like to thank **Michele Polci, CMP, CPCE**, Director of Catering and Restaurant Sales, Harrah's Entertainment, for delivering an inspiring speech as our honored graduation speaker. The graduates were not the only ones that were enthralled by the poignant and thoroughly uplifting message, containing both professional and life lessons to live by.

The spectacular venue was enhanced by the six evening sponsors who generously donated their

services and products. Special thanks to **Shirley Fugazzotto CSEP** of **The Stellar Experience**, TISOH instructor and **Gary Bordman** of **Event Mall**, for their efforts in bringing the event to life. The evening's sponsors included **Champagne Entertainment Group**, who provided a whimsical and glamorous "living table", **RSVP Party Rentals** and All Star Events for spectacular lounge furniture and decor elements, **Chef Flemming's Bake Shop** for a delicious pastry station and **Digital Impact** printing.

To all the proud graduates, please stay in touch! Be a part of the Alumni Association and come to the regular mixers. Apply your training and networking to reach your professional goals as we wish all of you a bright future in Hospitality!

To view or download photos from the event, click [here!](#)



TISOH Alumni Association Holiday Mixer 2009



Thanks for coming everyone!

On December 3, the **TISOH Alumni Association** hosted a holiday mixer at the amazing **KOI Restaurant and Lounge** in Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino.

Destinee Walker, Director of Private Catering at KOI and TISOH Alumni Association Board member, was our gracious host for the evening. Alumni, faculty, friends and honored guests enjoyed delectable hors d'oeuvres that showcased the fine Asian fusion cuisine that is KOI.

To those that were unable to attend, we hope you will make it to the next one! Mixers and socials represent great opportunities to rekindle friendships, start new ones, and make industry connections to grow professionally! It was another great alumni event buoyed by lots of familiar faces, friends and colleagues. Thanks to everyone who attended!

To view or download photos from the event, click [here!](#)



Alumni Spotlight - Interview with Marissa Cronister



1, What attracted you to the event profession?

Funny story, I kind of fell into the event profession! I was an office manager for a construction company before getting laid off. As a stopgap, I took an Administrative Assistant position with Plan It Interactive, expecting to leave once I found another construction position. But I quickly fell in love with the craziness and fun of supplying amazing games for events. Now, after four wonderful years, I continue to serve as Office/ Staffing Manager of our Las Vegas Branch.

2, As an event vendor, what do your professional responsibilities entail? What is the best part of your career?

I do a little bit of everything for Plan It Interactive. My primary responsibilities revolve around office management, inside sales and staffing. However, I am a manager that is not afraid to get her hands dirty, so more often than not you will see me working directly alongside my staff.

The favorite part of my job is seeing the end product of all the hard work we put in to a big event! The sense of accomplishment I feel when we successfully execute a casino party or inflatable picnic is simply priceless.

3, If you were to give advice to someone looking to become an event professional, what would it be?

My advice for anyone getting into the industry is to cultivate an ability to "think on your feet". In this business, things change or go wrong always at the last minute, so it is essential for all event professionals to be able to adapt. It is what makes this industry so maddeningly exciting!

4, You served for many years as a board member of NACE. Please describe your experience in that role.

I served 2 years on the Board of Directors for NACE Las Vegas as the Web/ Communications Chair and I treasured the experience. I really loved all my fellow Board members and have learned so much from each and every one of them. As an event professional, we sometimes lose sight or do not fully

grasp a true professional caterer's expertise. Having worked alongside many of them on the Board, I have learned to appreciate their perspective and take on event planning. I wish them all the best in 2010 and although I am not officially on the board this year, I plan to continue serving on committees. I will always remember and cherish all the great teamwork that led to our NACE chapter becoming one of the most distinguished and recognized in the country.

5, Tell us about your TISOH experience. What course did you take? What aspect was the most rewarding?

My experience as part of the Art of Food & Beverage certificate program was most memorable and eye opening. I was one of the very few students that had no prior catering background or experience. My goal was to expand my knowledge of cuisine and through the many engaging lectures and tasting adventures, I certainly accomplished my learning objective. I also made some really great friends that I continue to see on a regular basis. We formed a monthly dinner group where we gather to try new cuisines and test our knowledge on what we learned in class.

6, Tell us three fun facts about Marissa. What makes you tick?

Fun facts about me...

Well I love to dance; I danced ballet, tap, and jazz till I was 16 years old. To this day you will still see me busting a move randomly.

I am a music- a- holic! I love all kinds of music and always seem to be singing or humming something. (Sometimes even stuff I make up just for fun)

Although as nerdy as it sounds, I am very close to my family and spend a lot of time with my boyfriend, mom, sister, niece and nephew. You will hear me talking about them all the time!!

7, Tell us about your business!

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