

July 2009

Dear Friends,

In this issue, we are highlighting exciting new growth at TISOH!

**New staff member!** In July, we warmly welcomed Elena Shik to the TISOH family. Elena has a strong background in education and will serve as our Academic Programs Manager. Be sure to look for her at the next alumni mixer!

**School Expansion!** TISOH is proud to add a new wing that will feature a large classroom with seating for 35+ students. With the added space, we will be able to offer more program offerings to larger groups.

**TISOH Career Fair!** Join the committee that is forming to plan this exciting new event coming February 2010. Details on participation can be found below.

**Alumni Association Meeting!** Become an active member of the TISOH Alumni Association by attending our next meeting to be held at the school on July 16, 6pm.

Looking back to June, the TISOH Alumni Association hosted two successful events, a well-attended association meeting at the school, and an exciting mixer at Rumjungle that saw many alumni networking (and partying) the night away! Be sure to check out the link to photos below.

Wishing you another hot summer month ahead!

Sincerely,



Timothy M. Lam  
Director

## *Staff Spotlight - TISOH welcomes Elena Shik*



We are proud to welcome the newest member of the TISOH family, **Elena Shik**. Elena has a Masters of Education in Higher Education Leadership from UNLV, and she will serve as our **Academic Programs Manager**. Her expertise and experience in education will make Elena a great asset to TISOH, helping us ensure that our program offerings continue to improve and

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## *July Alumni Meeting*

**Our monthly TISOH Alumni Association Meeting is scheduled for:**

**July 16, 6pm at TISOH**

Come meet the officers and help plan future mixers and events!

## *Referral Program*

**Receive a \$50 gift card with our thanks and help spread the word about TISOH!**

Click [here](#) for more details.

grow. Elena is a passionate education professional and we are very glad to have her on our team!

#### **Fun facts about Elena:**

- she is an outdoors person who loves to hike and be one with nature
- her last name is pronounced "Chic", not like the razor brand!
- while Las Vegas is now her home, she is actually a Canadian citizen from faraway Toronto

*Be sure to say hi if you see her at TISOH or at the next mixer!*

## *School Expansion - TISOH is growing, literally!*



TISOH is happy to announce the addition of a new wing, which will feature a **large classroom** that will seat **35+ participants!** Construction is already under way and scheduled completion is set for end of August 2009. The new space will also add two ancillary flex rooms and will be accessible from the school's main entrance. We are excited about the expansion which will accommodate our growth as we look to the future!

## *TISOH Career Fair Committee - We need your help!*



*Are you Interested in helping the Las Vegas economy?*

*Want to become more involved as a TISOH alum?*

**Join the TISOH Career Fair Committee Today!**

The TISOH Alumni Association is forming a **planning committee** for the first **TISOH Career Fair**, to be held in February 2010. This is a large and important undertaking that will benefit past and present students alike. **We need your help to make it happen.** Destinee Walker, Giovanna Irigoyen, and Brit Bertino, all alums of the Conference Management and Event Planning program, are heading up this exciting new project and TISOH would like to thank them for their joint efforts and initiative.

If you are interested in joining the committee, please click [here](#) to fill out the information form. Email the completed form to: [careerfair@tiso.com](mailto:careerfair@tiso.com)

**Have questions?** Email Giovanna at: [alum@tiso.com](mailto:alum@tiso.com)

## *Alumni Spotlight - Interview with Destinee Walker*



### **1. What attracted you to the career of a conference and event coordinator?**

I discovered this awesome career upon relocating to Las Vegas. I have always loved planning and organizing events, but did not know I could make a career of it. Boy, was I ever wrong. When I stumbled across The International School of Hospitality I thought, "Yes, this is exactly where I need to be to jump start my career in conference management and event planning". Once at TISOH I learned that individuals in this field can work towards multiple designations, including, but not limited to CMP, CMM, RMP,

CEP, CPCE, and CSEP. I discovered a journey, a continuous path to success, a chance to strive for the next level, endless opportunities . . . I discovered a CHALLENGE!

**2. As an event coordinator, what is best part of your job?**

The best part of my job is twofold. I enjoy planning the logistics of each event. For example, How many bars, buffets and servers are needed for the event? What is the ideal floor plan that will create the optimum traffic flow? What are the speakers' cues?, etc . . . The second best part is setting up and decorating for the event. This is where I can be creative!

**3. If you had to give advice to someone looking to become an event planner, what would it be?**

Education and experience. I believe people who are not in the industry have this misconception that event planning is easy. This is far from the truth. Become a sponge for information and then apply that knowledge through hands on experience. This is why the programs at TISOH are so beneficial. Students receive classroom guidance and are then able to apply learned concepts during their internships. Never turn down a learning experience, no matter how big or how small it may seem.

**4. Tell us about your TISOH experience. What was the most fun or rewarding memory you have?**

Receiving a certification in Conference Management and Event Planning has been extremely rewarding. I think the best part of my entire TISOH experience is the relationships I have built, both social and professional. As a TISOH alumna, I feel more connected to the hospitality industry. I feel I have a solid network of industry professionals and friends I can turn to for support and guidance.

**5. What was the toughest job interview question you received and why?**

Honestly, I have yet to interview for a job. But, there is a lesson to be learned from that crazy statement. My current position as Event Manager for Koi Restaurant was earned through persistence, hard work and relationship building. I began my tenure with Koi as a hostess in New York City. No job was ever too small, or too big, whether it be bussing tables or assisting the General Manager with private functions. Even after leaving the company for two years, my dedication and hard work were not forgotten. When the Las Vegas location opened in 2007 I was welcomed back to the Koi family with open arms, a promotion and benefits! Sometimes the job is the interview. Always do your best. Work hard and NEVER burn bridges. *Well done is better than well said.* - Benjamin Franklin

**6. Tell us three fun facts about Destinee. What makes you tick?**

I can touch my nose with my tongue and wrap my legs around my neck. Who needs a third fun fact when you can do that?

Passionate and motivated people make me tick! Those are the people I try to surround myself with.

**7. Where do you see yourself professionally ten years from now?**

You mean, I should have a plan? All jokes aside, I do not know and I think it is okay to not know. As long as I love what I do and can help people along the way, I am open to any career path in event planning. Steps I plan to take throughout my journey include earning a designation in event planning and working for a company where I can plan all aspects of events, not just the food and beverage portion.

*Alumni Networking June Mixer Recap*



## Thanks for coming everyone!

On June 25, the TISOH Alumni Association hosted their summer mixer at the fabulous Rumjungle, Mandalay Bay. It was wonderful seeing so many familiar faces, with approximately thirty in attendance comprising of alumni, current students, instructors, and administrators. Our featured guest, Paul Carpino MA, was on hand to meet and greet past and present students, ready as always to dispense his valuable career tips and advice. Thank you Paul for participating!

To those that were unable to attend, we hope you will make it to the next one, which is already being planned. Mixers are a great opportunity to rekindle friendships with past alumni and instructors. Future mixers will include a "meet and greet" with hotel recruiters among other new features so don't miss out!

**As with all TISOH events, lots of photos were taken by Marcus. Click [here](#) to view and download them!**

## *Upcoming Fall Programs - Enroll Today!*

### **CMEP: Conference Management & Event Planning**

Industry leaders with decades of combined experience teach this 12-week comprehensive program. The course is delivered through lectures, discussions, site visits, and talks by guest speakers. Upon successful completion of the course, students will have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to succeed in their careers as conference and event planning professionals.

Classes Start: September 14, 2009  
Classes Meet: Monday and Wednesday  
(6:00 pm to 9:00 pm for 12 weeks)

### **WCD: Wedding Coordination & Design**

This program is designed to provide participants with a foundation of knowledge on wedding planning and the confidence to enter and succeed in the industry. Upon completion, graduates will be able to work towards careers as independent wedding consultants; employment as planners with hotels, resorts and special event companies; or for positions with allied businesses.

Classes Start: September 14, 2009  
Classes Meet: Monday and Wednesday  
(6:00 pm to 9:00 pm for 12 weeks)

### **AOC: The Art of Concierge**

This program is designed to provide thorough hands-on training in world-class concierge service and guest relations skills, along with the required supervisory and communication skills to succeed in hospitality operations.

Classes Start: September 15, 2009  
Classes Meet: Tuesday and Thursday  
(6:00 pm to 8:00 pm for 10 weeks)

**To learn more or to enroll, click [here](#).**

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