



September 2010

Dear Friends,

It's that time of year again...Back to School! Bring out the backpacks, calculators, pencils and energy drinks!!! We are starting classes for our fall semester on Monday, September 13th. Our staff and faculty are excited to welcome new students and alums!

We welcomed our newest alums on **Friday, August 13th** at the J.W. Marriott. Friends and families were in attendance to congratulate all of the students in our summer classes (Conference Management & Event Planning, Art of Concierge, Event Design & Production, Hotel Operations, Wedding Coordination & Design, and Hospitality Human Resources).

On **Thursday, August 26th**, we cheered on the Las Vegas 51's Triple-A baseball team at Cashman Field as they took on the Reno Aces. The TISOH Alumni Association reserved the Bank of America Patio located right on the baseball field, just 20 feet from third base and an arm's reach from the left field line to watch the game!

We are still accepting names for our **TISOH Classrooms Contest!** We want **YOU** to name our three classrooms! [Click here](#) to participate for a chance to win a special prize!

Read about our Panel & Discussion hosted by our WCD Class!

**We want to hear from YOU!** If you are interested in becoming an active member of the TISOH Alumni Association or would like to stay in touch or to post an announcement, [click here](#) to complete the form!

**TISOH Alumni Spotlight Interview!** This month, we point our spotlight on **Juliet Douglas**, Lead Consultant and Owner of Green Orchid Events, Inc., alumnus of our Wedding Coordination and Design Certificate Program.

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[Become an Active Member!](#)

Show your "*Aloha spirit*" during Aloha Hour! Join your fellow Alums to network, wine and dine at Roy's Restaurant!

Thursday,  
September 23rd  
6:00 p.m.

Roy's Restaurant  
620 East Flamingo Rd.



Looking forward to a wonderful fall semester!

Sincerely,



Timothy M. Lam  
Executive Director



## *Summer 2010 Graduation!*

**TISOH  
SUMMER  
GRADUATION  
Congratulations!**

On Friday, August 13th, we welcomed our newest alums to our TISOH family at the J.W. Marriott. Friends and families were in attendance to congratulate all of the students in all of our summer classes.

Our guest speaker for the evening was **Jeanne Mills, Chef Concierge** at the MGM Grand Hotel & Casino and Vice President of Les Clefs d'Or U.S.A., Ltd. Jeanne was very encouraging and inspirational to our new industry professionals.

We were pleased to present **Sherry Fernandez** with an Executive Diploma in Hotel Operations! Sherry demonstrated advanced competency in four emphases of study; *Art of Food and Beverage, Conference Management and Event Planning, Hospitality Leadership & Supervision, and Hospitality Human Resources*. Way to go Sherry!!!

***Congratulations to all our graduates and newest alums!***

To view photos from the happy event, please [click here](#).



## *Batter Up!*

**TISOH  
BASEBALL MIXER**

On **Thursday, August 26th**, the TISOH Alumni Association cheered on the Las Vegas 51's as they played the Reno Aces at Cashman Field.

A great time was had by all! The Alumni Association reserved the Bank of America Patio located right on the baseball field, just 20 feet from third base and

an arm's reach from the left field line to watch the game! Although the Aces defeated the 51's 4-2, it didn't stop our Alums, family and friends to enjoy the evening!

To view photos from the mixer, please [click here](#).



## *Wedding Program Panel Discussion*



**Congratulations** to our Instructor, Brit Bertino, CSEP, on hosting a panel discussion on Tuesday, August 3rd.

The topic that was discussed was "**Building Provider Relationships: Photography, Videography, and Entertainment for Special Events**". The panelists shared their unique strategies and perspectives on how to incorporate unique entertainment, photography, and videography into a special event or wedding. Having these skilled professionals on the panel helped students and current professionals enhance an overall event and learn how to work effectively with providers.

"THANK YOU" to our panelists for sharing their expertise with us:

**DJ Mike Fox**, *Mike Fox and Company*

**Jamey Kirklin**, *The Viewfinders Photography Group*

**Greg Warden**, *The Viewfinders Photography Group*

**John Sanchez**, *Memory Lane Video*

**Carla Marrero**, *MRS Events & Entertainment*

Students and guests that attended the WCD Panel Discussion *gained specialized knowledge, earned credits towards their CMP, CSEP and CPCE industry certifications, and networked with industry professionals.*



## *Name the TISOH Classrooms Contest!*

### **TISOH CLASSROOMS CONTEST**

TISOH wants **YOU** to name our classrooms!

TISOH needs your support! We are looking for ***YOU*** to ***name our (3) classrooms!*** **Be creative!** Three Alums will be selected for the best names for each room. Each winner chosen will receive a special prize!

**Please think of a name for the following rooms:**

**Classroom 1:** TISOH's newest room. This room is located next door.

**Classroom 2:** Main classroom the majority of classes are taught in. This room is located across from offices and the kitchen.

**Classroom 3:** Small classroom in the back.

[Click here](#) to complete and fill out the form. Email it to [alum@tiso.com](mailto:alum@tiso.com), Fax to (702) 947-7205, or return to the address provided at the bottom of the page!

*Winners will be contacted directly and announced in our upcoming Newsletter!!!!*



## *Alumni Spotlight - Interview with Juliet Douglas*



**Juliet** is the owner and lead wedding consultant for [Green Orchid Events](#). Having been a singer and musician for most of her life, she enjoys good live music in all genres from classical to hard rock. Her other loves include rich molten chocolate cakes, chocolate hazelnut gelato, trying new restaurants, hot tea even on a hot summer Las Vegas day, and spending time with family and friends.

Juliet has a Bachelor of Science degree in Hotel Administration from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with a concentration in Special Events and Entertainment. She also graduated and obtained a Wedding Coordination and Design Certificate from the International School of Hospitality. Juliet has worked in various positions in some of the finest establishments in Las Vegas in the hospitality and food and beverage industries. Juliet is a member of the National Association of Catering Executives and was on the Board in 2009.



Juliet's photo was taken by Chelsea Nicole with Chelsea Nicole Photography.

### **1. What attracted you to the wedding profession?**

Honestly, I wasn't the wedding planner who grew up dreaming about her wedding day (I hated planning my own wedding) let alone a career in wedding planning. My dream was to be on stage as a singer and entertainer. The "back up" career for that was a career behind the scenes. UNLV was limited in music/entertainment business courses when I enrolled. I went back and forth between a

music degree (where I was offered a music scholarship) and a hospitality degree (where they had just introduced the "Special Events and Entertainment" concentration now called "Meetings and Events Management"). I chose the more "practical" one and wanted to focus on the entertainment side and not the events side. However, my capstone course was to plan a luncheon with my class where Celebrity Event Planner, Sharon Sacks, was the keynote speaker. I learned from her, did a weekend internship, and I was hooked. When it came time to finally get a "real job", I applied for a wedding chapel job in a hotel after some other experience in food and beverage and hospitality, I decided I wanted to go into business for myself!

**2. Tell us about your TISOH experience. What course(s) did you take? What aspect was the most rewarding?**

I took the Wedding Coordination and Design course. The most rewarding aspect was meeting all the different vendors. We can learn anything in a textbook but nothing beats hands on experience. Also, my various intern hours assisting Christie McCoy, of CLM Weddings, was extremely rewarding. It was nice seeing some of the weddings published and remembering that I was there as part of the team.

**3. As a wedding professional, what do your responsibilities entail? What is the best part of your career?**

In a nutshell, I'm a wedding planner and assist brides in bringing their wedding dreams to life while helping them make informed decisions. Besides the obvious tasks of securing their venue and vendors, designing their wedding, and coordinating their wedding, my responsibilities also include securing bookings for my company for weddings, dealing with the boring financial stuff in Quickbooks, marketing, and handling all the business day to day operations. That's the boring, tedious stuff. The best part? Definitely seeing the bride, groom, their families, and friends with their smiles, tears of joy, and laughter.

**4. If you were to give advice to someone looking to become a wedding planner, what would it be?**

Get as much experience as possible in the industry before trying to do this on your own - it's so important to be well rounded. Externships in floral/decor companies, catering companies (not necessarily in restaurants but specifically in banquets), photography studios, bridal salons, and of course wedding planning companies are important. I also recommend learning from business, social media, and marketing blogs tailored to the event industries. I subscribe to about 40 business blogs related to the event industry in my Google Reader and read them pretty frequently.

Also, be prepared to have thick skin and persistence. Don't be surprised if companies are hesitant to bring you on board as an assistant or extern. Companies get tons of emails and phone calls from people who "just planned their wedding and fell in love with the process". Brides and their families can be mean at times. And there's always an aunt or a sister at weddings who think they can do a better job than you and will tell you.

Lastly, have a day job, or a rich partner! Being a new planner rarely pays off in the beginning.

**5. What lessons did you learn from TISOH that you will always keep with you?**

I was taught by my instructor to learn everything I can about the industry. It takes more than just being able to pick out pretty flowers and linen to be a wedding planner.

**6. What is the most unique and memorable wedding that you are most proud of? Tell us a little about this wedding.**

I truly enjoy planning weddings in Las Vegas. I've had so many unique and memorable weddings and it would be unfair to just choose one. With that being said, there's one that sticks out in my mind.

The bride and groom hired me about 5 to 6 months before the big day. They are by far one of the sweetest couples. The wedding took place at Reflection Bay Golf Club out at Lake Las Vegas. The bride and her bridesmaids arrived to their lakeside ceremony on a yacht. There were ribbon dancers,

a live horn section and strings, a gospel choir, a live event painter, and a gondola exit. The ceremony was absolutely beautiful. For whatever reason, the bridal party and all guests stayed on the north end of the strip. Something took place to upset the bride momentarily and the bridal party was going to be an hour late. That was a problem because of the timing of the yacht, gondola, all the entertainers, etc. However, we pulled it off and finished the ceremony with a few minutes to spare before the gospel choir and band went into overtime. With all of that stress, the bride was still all smiles and told me that she's just happy that EVERYTHING we had planned still went as planned.

### **7. What do you do when you are not working?**

I enjoy spending time with my husband and baby girl who was born in June. I also love spending time with my twin sister and her family. On free weekends, we love to visit baby friendly restaurants to unwind and enjoy lunch and good conversation. I'm a simple gal.

### **8. In one word, how would you describe your experience with TISOH?**

Life-changing. It gave me the confidence and the push I needed to start my own business.

*We want to hear from YOU!*

**KEEP IN  
TOUCH**  
*through the*  
**PINEAPPLE**

#### **Keeping in touch...**

Got a new job? Trying to contact classmates? Getting married? Would you like to post an announcement in the next issue of **The Pineapple**? If so, please fill out the form by clicking [here](#)! We are always interested in informing our alumni and friends of significant situations that occur throughout your lives. Our stories are submitted by faculty, alumni and staff. We aim to provide a diverse selection to you! This is your newsletter, if there is something you want to see or that you want to help make happen, please let us know! We are always open to suggestions. Your feedback and ideas are vital in our planning of alumni events and services.

Let's see what our alums are up to....

**Carla Spears Hanson**, *Hotel Operations, 2008*, has moved back to Florida in 2009. Carla is working for LBA Hospitality as the Director of Sales for the Hampton Inn & Suites in the Panama City Beach Pier Park area. In April, 2010, Carla married her best friend of 11 years!  
***Congratulations and Best Wishes to you Carla!!!***

*Become an Active Member!*

**BECOME  
AN ACTIVE  
MEMBER**

#### **Interested in joining the TISOH Alumni Association?**

The purpose of the TISOH Alumni Association is to provide alumni with a network that strengthens connections with friends, classmates, current students, faculty and staff to support the social, academic and professional needs of The International School of Hospitality and its' current and future alumni.

The TISOH Alumni Association holds meetings at different venues to discuss community, academic, social and fundraising events for its' members and current students. Becoming a member is a wonderful way to stay in touch with the school, meet new friends, network and experience the city of Las Vegas if you live locally.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR for upcoming meetings and events!**

**\* Alumni Meeting**

**Thursday, September 23rd at 6:00 p.m.**

Roy's Restaurant

620 East Flamingo Road

\* Join us for Aloha Hour in the bar area! Featured appetizers and specialty cocktails are only \$5.00!!!

**\* Alumni Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 20th at 6:00 p.m.**

El Segundo Sol

3200 Las Vegas Boulevard South (Fashion Show Mall)

\* Join us for "Loco" Hour...tacos starting at \$2.12, sangria starting at \$3.95 and margaritas starting at \$4.95!!!

**\* Community Event - Walk to Cure Diabetes for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation**

**Saturday, November 6th at 9:00 a.m.**

2010 Walk to Cure Diabetes

UNLV - North End

Check-in Time: 9:00 a.m. / Walk Start Time: 10:00 a.m.

\* Join the TISOH Alumni Association Team as we walk to cure diabetes. The TISOH Team is looking to raise \$1,000.00 for their team to support the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Put on your best sneakers and show your support!

**\* Stay tuned for more information on our Holiday Mixer in December!!!**

For more information about the TISOH Alumni Association or to learn how you can become involved please email [alum@tiso.com](mailto:alum@tiso.com) or call **(702) 947-7200 Ext. 206**.



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