



August 2010

Dear Friends,

Summer is here! You know what that means...pool parties, ice cream, and baseball!

On **Thursday, August 26 at 6:00 p.m., cheer on the Las Vegas 51's Triple-A baseball team at Cashman Center!** The TISOH Alumni Association has reserved the Bank of America Patio located right on the baseball field to watch the game! Tickets are \$22.52 per person which includes your baseball ticket, \$5.00 Food & Beverage voucher and a Las Vegas 51's baseball hat! **Friends and family are invited!** Online registration will end on Tuesday, August 24th. Alums are also invited to register in person on campus between 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. To sign up now, [click here!](#)

We are two weeks away from welcoming our newest alums! Students in all of our summer classes (Conference Management & Event Planning, Art of Concierge, Event Design & Production and Hospitality Human Resources) have worked hard this semester and our faculty and staff at TISOH are looking forward to say "*Congratulations*" to our new graduates.

**Congratulations to Donnell Bayot M.Ed., CHE and Lisa Lynn Backus CPCE** for winning National Awards from the **National Association of Catering Executives (NACE)**.

**Enter our TISOH Classrooms Contest!** We want ***YOU*** to name our three classrooms! [Click here](#) to participate and share your ideas for a chance to win a special prize!

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

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

**TISOH Alumni Spotlight Interview!** This month, we point our spotlight on **Louis Vasta**, CGMP, CMM, CBES alumnus of our Conference Management & Event Planning certificate.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Las Vegas 51's baseball game!

Sincerely,

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***Click here to SIGN UP!***

Join us as we cheer on the Las Vegas 51's Triple-A Baseball Team! **Thursday, August 26th 6:00 p.m. Cashman Field**





Timothy M. Lam  
Executive Director



## Batter Up!

**SAVE  
THE DATE  
AUG 26**

**Step up to the plate and cheer on your Las Vegas 51's!** The Las Vegas 51's are the Triple A Minor League Baseball, Pacific Coast League, affiliation of the Toronto Blue Jays!

On **Thursday, August 26th at 6:00 p.m.**, the **TISOH Alumni Association** will cheer on the **51's!** Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to network with your fellow Alums, meet new Instructors and watch a baseball game on the field of the Bank of America patio! **Family and friends are welcome to attend, too!**

**Cost: \$22.52 per person\***

\* Includes one ticket in the Bank of America Patio, Las Vegas 51's Hat, \$5.00 Food & Beverage Voucher, Special visit in the Bank of America Patio by 51's Mascot, Cosmo

Online Registration will end on Tuesday, August 24th. Alums are also invited to register in person on campus between 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

Thursdays at the Las Vegas 51's games are **\$1.00 Beer nights (Budweiser and Bud Light)!**

Parking is at Cashman Center and the cost for parking will be \$4.00 per car. Cashman Field is located at 850 Las Vegas Boulevard North. Cashman Field is located behind Cashman Center. There will be a TISOH Alumni Registration Table just outside the entrance to the baseball stadium. Tickets will be distributed at the TISOH Registration Table.

To sign up for the game, [click here!](#)

## Congratulations to NACE National Award Winners

**TISOH  
NEWS**

### School Director and Advisory Board Member Wins National Awards

The **National Association of Catering Executives (NACE)** awarded **Donnell Bayot** M.Ed., CHE, with an appointment to the **President's List** in recognition of outstanding achievement and selfless volunteer service to the Association during their national conference. During his tenure as Education Chair for the Las Vegas Chapter of NACE, he founded the Student Chapter, created new revenue streams and developed a ground-breaking educational seminar series. **"Donnell works with and mentors students to groom them to be true professionals in our field," commented Kathy Baldieri CPCE, President of the Las Vegas Chapter.**

TISOH Advisory Board Member and former instructor **Lisa Lynn Backus** CPCE of Harrah's Entertainment was awarded the **George Zell Spirit of NACE Award** at the same conference.



To learn more about the Las Vegas Chapter of NACE, or how to become a student member, [click here](#).

## *EDP Panel Discussion & Reception*



**Congratulations** to our Instructor, Shirley Fugazzotto, CHE, CSEP and the EDP (Event Design and Production) Students (current and graduate) on hosting a panel discussion and reception on Wednesday, June 30th.

The topic that was discussed was "**How Event Producers Can Improve and Maximize Relations with In-House Services**". The panelists shared their unique strategies and perspectives on working relationships in the areas of Food & Beverage, Marketing, Technical and Convention Services. One of the subjects that seem to puzzle even the more experienced event producers is what to expect from, and how to work effectively with, in-house services and labor unions. Having these skilled professionals on the panel helped clarify what happens out there in the real world.

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

**Greg DeRosa**, *Director of Event Technology, PSAV Presentation Services*

**Derek Franceschini**, *Executive Pastry Chef, Luxor Hotel & Casino*

**Ryky Patterson**, *Union Steward & Rigger, IASTE Union*

**Suzi Waltos**, *CSEP, Citywide Special Events Manager, Harrah's Entertainment*

A "BIG" Thank You to our Moderator, **Cheryl Sgovio**, *CPCE, Director of Catering and Convention Sales, Thomas & Mack Center, Cox Pavillion and Sam Boyd Stadium* on asking the panelists questions to sharpen our guests' skills in the industry.

The EDP Panel Discussion & Reception would not be complete without the support from our sponsors. "THANK YOU" to:

**Gary Bordman**, *Event Mall*

**John Humphries**, *Earth Water Sky Productions*

**Doug Taylor**, *LV Sound, Inc.*

**Tim Welc**, *Masterpiece Cuisine*

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



## *Name the 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!

*Deadline to enter the contest: Friday, August 27th. Winners will be contacted directly and announced in the September Newsletter!!!!*



## *Alumni Spotlight - Interview with Louis Vasta, CGMP, CMM, GBES*



**Mr. Vasta**, a Certified Government Meeting Professional (CGMP), Certified in Meeting Management (CMM) by Meeting Professionals International (MPI's most prestigious designation), and a certified Green Business Environmental Specialist (GBES), is a nationally recognized leader in the field of special event production, operations and logistics. He is President and Founder of Vasta & Associates, Inc., a special events company that specializes in organizing executive travel, meetings and events world-wide ([www.vasta.com](http://www.vasta.com)) since 1996.

A former project engineer with "Fortune 500" construction and mining company, Kiewit & Sons (Omaha, NE), and a former member of the "Advance" teams of President Bill Clinton, First Lady Hillary Clinton, and Vice President Al Gore, Mr. Vasta has over twenty years of professional experience. Mr. Vasta has consulted, or been on the staff of three Presidential Inauguration Committees as well as held the following positions: Deputy CEO and Director of Operations for the 2000 Democratic National Convention; Director of Operations for the 1997 G8 Summit of World Leaders; and Manager of Transportation for the 1994 World Cup.

His special event experience includes: (2) World Cups, (7) Olympic Games, (4) Democratic National Conventions, (3) Presidential Inaugurations, (10) Breeders' Cups, (9) U.S. Conference of Mayors, (15) NBA All-Star Games, (5) MLB All-Star Games, (8) NFL Super Bowls, (2) NFL Pro Bowls and (10) PGA / USGA major golf events.

Mr. Vasta has been directly responsible for operational departments, including the development, procurement, and administration of budgets, operational plans, staffing, and scheduling. Supervising hundreds of staff, and thousands of volunteers, Mr. Vasta has been the liaison at the highest levels with local, state and federal government agencies and law enforcement departments. In addition, he has been responsible for subcontractors, vendors, suppliers and materials and ultimately, for the execution of operations at events with numerous venues including airports, hotels, stadiums and special event sites. During Mr. Vasta's engineering tenure he was responsible for budgets in excess of over \$300 million.

Mr. Vasta was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Southern Illinois University, the Professional Career Certificate in Meeting & Event Planning from The International School of Hospitality in Las Vegas, NV, and he is currently enrolled in the Career

Certificate Program on Leadership in Sustainability Management from the University of Chicago.

Among some of Mr. Vasta's certifications and associations are: Meeting Professionals International, Society of Government Meeting Professionals, The International Ecotourism Society, Institute for Green Business Certification; International Special Events Society, Chicago Area Runners Association and the National Association of Underwater Instructors (scuba diving).

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

I actually got into this business by accident around 1993. I went to college to be an engineer and did that for about six years. Rather than take a job transfer to a 2 year project in a small Indiana town, I decided to take up a friends proposal and job offer to help organize a large sporting event that was coming to America for the first time. The event was the World Cup, and the rest is history. Unlike many industries, the attraction for me is that the event profession offers a constant change in scenery, excitement and challenges.

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

I took the full Conference Mgmt. and Event Planning Career Certificate Program as a refresher course, and to jump start my career into a more broad scope of event and meeting planning. My company has historically acted as more of a Destination Management Company specializing in logistical aspects of special events and meetings. As a strategy to expand into more business opportunities we decided to invest into industry professional certifications and achieve proper credentialing. After discussions with some top industry professionals and researching qualified schools, we concluded that TISOH would be a natural fit for me, and for one of my associates. We attended TISOH prior to applying for any certifications and it really worked out well.

### **3. As an event professional, what do your responsibilities entail? What is the best part of your career?**

We have developed a broad range of responsibilities and expertise. We can do the full spectrum of meeting planning, or specifics like transportation, security, or catering. The best part of my career is the worldwide travel, the contacts (friends) made, and the ability to see world-class events from the inside out.

### **4. If you were to give advice to someone looking to become an event professional, what would it be?**

You can start with a basic education, and then learn the industry terms and intricacies, and finally do plenty of volunteer or intern work for some established organizations so that you can experience what the work will be like. Volunteering sends a clear message that you want to learn, that you are passionate about something, and that you are not concerned about money; a good path in order to get hired!

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

The administrative details of event and meetings are very important. TISOH brought me back into academia, fine tuned our field experience and opened the doors to a world of new contacts and leads. TISOH allowed me to think critically on important current issues and plan strategically for the current business environment.

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

The Presidential Inaugurations are an event like no other. The challenge is that you are planning an event the size of 10 Super Bowls (or even an Olympics) and you only have less than three months to plan and execute the event(s). Where Super Bowls are planned for a year or two, and Olympics for

many years, the Inauguration does not afford that luxury. Because the Inauguration always takes place eighty some days after the election results, that is the "nature of the beast" that you confront. But when it finally takes place, the world is watching, and all of your hard work and sleepless nights have come to fruition.

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

Unfortunately, I'm always working. But I love my job and wouldn't give it up for another. I do spend some free time exercising, watching sporting events, or taking in a movie.

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

Exciting! I can't stress enough that education is a life long process that should be embraced. When you can have experience, education, a network of industry professionals and friends, and you like what you do...you have it all!

## *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.

## *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 bi-monthly meetings on campus 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.

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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