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**Eight Student Teams Put their Cooking Skills to the Test at The ACF Student Team Northeast Regional Championship in Boston**

**ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla., January 28, 2009**—The American Culinary Federation (ACF), Inc., will hosts its ACF Student Team Northeast Regional Championship, sponsored by R.L. Schreiber, Inc., at the 2009 ACF Northeast Regional Conference, held at the Westin Boston Waterfront, Boston, Feb 7-9.

The ACF Student Team Championship is designed to raise the standards of culinary excellence and professionalism among students, promote camaraderie and educational opportunities, and act as a staging area for research and development of culinary concepts. To compete at the regional level, teams must first win local and state competitions.

This year, student teams from Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and West Virginia will go head-to-head for the Northeast Regional title. The competition consists of three phases: cold-food presentation, skills salon and cooking, where teams will prepare a pre-assigned classical fish starter chosen from *Escoffier: The Complete Guide to the Art of Modern Cookery*, and a salad, entrée and desert of their choice. A panel of judges will select the winning team, which will advance to the national competition held at ACF's national convention in Orlando, Fla., in July. Here are the ACF Student Team Northeast Regional Championship candidates:

**Connecticut Chefs Association** The following students from Manchester Community College, Manchester, Conn., will compete: **Elizabeth Bunker**, of Glastonbury, Conn.; **Marc Cutler**, of Avon, Conn.; **Scott Fitzgerald**, of Marlborough, Conn.; **Joseph Mott**, of Manchester, Conn.; and **Patrick Sweeney**, of Broad Brook, Conn. The team is coached by **Linda Coons**.

**ACF Northern New Jersey Chapter** The following students from Hudson County Community College, Jersey City, N.J., will compete: **Leif Brewer**, of Bayonne, N.J.; **Paul Castro**, of Jersey City, N.J.; **Yvonne Clemente**, of Fords, N.J.; **Adrienne Fudge**, of Maplewood, N.J.; and **Peter Haynes**, of Irvington, N.J. The team is coached by **Ryan Foo, CEC**.

**ACF of Greater Buffalo New York** The following students will compete: **Kurtis Kowalczyk**, of Hamburg, N.Y.; **Mark Miller**, of Lackawanna, N.Y.; **Denise Poland**, of Buffalo, N.Y.; **Nia Pullinzi**, of East Amherst, N.Y.; and **Lindsay Wilczynski**, of Buffalo, N.Y. The team is coached by **Monte Dolce**.

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**ACF Columbus Chapter** The following students from Hocking Technical College, Nelsonville, Ohio, will compete: **Jose Ramon Cabatingan**, of Athens, Ohio; **Christina Carpenter**, of Ashville, Ohio; **Thomas Mulligan**, of Nelsonville, Ohio; **Ronald Rutherford**, of Nelsonville, Ohio; and **Greg Tobin**, of Lancaster, Ohio. The team is coached by **Thomas Landusky, CEC**.

**ACF Pittsburgh Chapter** The following students, all of Pittsburgh, will compete: **Joseph Allison**; **Evan Blocker**; **Tristan Haseler**; **Christine Shipe**; and **Brian Sorce**. The team is coached by **Art Inzinga, CEC, CCE, AAC**.

**ACF Rhode Island Chapter** The following students from Johnson & Wales University, Providence, R.I., will compete: **Arthur Barrette**, of Greenville, R.I.; **Elizabeth Bova**, of Brick, N.J.; **Sarah Irwin**, of Providence, R.I.; **Katharina Krueger**, of Providence, R.I.; and **Khairul Muhamad**, of East Providence, R.I. The team is coached by **George O'Palenick, CEC, CCE, AAC**.

**ACF New England Culinary Institute** The following students from New England Culinary Institute, Montpelier, Vt., will compete: **Jamie Hornby**, of Grafton, Ohio; **Blair Johnson**, of Alexandria, Va.; **Matan Levy**, of Essex Junction, Vt.; **Tarisa Reid**, of Essex Junction, Vt.; and **Brittany Zahorchak**, of Front Royal, Va. The team is coached by **Michael Gunyan, CEC, CCE**.

**ACF West Virginia Chapter**

The following students from Pierpont Community & Technical College, Fairmont, W.Va., will compete: **Sarabeth Cox**, of Salem, W.Va.; **Amanda Emerson**, of Morgantown, W.Va.; **Ted Hastings**, of Morgantown, W.Va.; **Kellie Smith**, of Yawkey, W.Va.; and **Joseph White**, of Fairmont, W.Va. The team is coached by **Jay Mahoney**.

Hundreds of chefs, cooks and foodservice professionals will attend the three-day culinary event. There will be educational seminars, culinary demos, networking and social functions, culinary competitions, meal events and more. For information, or to register to attend, visit [www.acfchefs.org](http://www.acfchefs.org) or call (800) 624-9458.