Greetings Chef,

Greetings Fellows of the American Academy of Chefs®!

I hope that everyone has had great spring vacation, a wonderful Easter season with family & friends and had some relaxing down-time to yourselves after such a harsh winter season. I certainly love this time of year; from the rich lush greenness of the trees, to the beautiful melodies of the migrating birds, and those clear bright sunny skies coupled with the beauty of spring with the warmth it brings us. Such a lovely time of the year that is right upon us all once again! Remember Fellows; enjoy every day and every moment of what is presented to all of us! Beauty is all around us and in many different forms! Smile, have fun, laugh & enjoy!

Fellows, it has been a very busy March & April for me, but, first, the 2015 ACF ChefConnect: Indy Central/Western Regional Conference was a gigantic success! Central Regional Vice President Kyle Richardson, CEC, CCE, AAC, and Western Regional Vice President David Goodwin, CEC, CCA, AAC, along with President Sam Brown, CCC of the ACF Greater Indianapolis Chapter did an outstanding job organizing and hosting the event. Camaraderie was great, the food magnificent and the educational offerings were phenomenal.

A warm and heartfelt "thank-you" to Executive Chef Glenn Brown, CEC, AAC and his staff of the Country Club of Indianapolis for hosting an extraordinary American Academy of Chefs® dinner. It was an unforgettable night of exceptional Gastronomique fare that was enjoyed by all guests in attendance and a very special thanks to Chef Brandon Hamilton, CEC, CCE, & Chef Justin Miller, along with Pastry Chef Benjamin Hardy, who all added their own "special touches" to the event adorning the entire experience! This Academy dinner was outstanding and without a doubt I believe that everyone; from our loyal sponsors & partners and all food enthusiast alike that partook in this great dinner walked away with a memorable evening experience of great food, wine and camaraderie! Without a doubt these talented Chefs definitely exceeded & surpassed all expectations! And lastly, congratulations to our AAC Service Award recipients this year that were in attendance at the AAC Regional Dinners; from the Western Region was Chef David Goodwin, CEC,
CCA, AAC and from the Central was Chef Dennis Ellis, CEC, CCE, AAC. A "tip of the toque" to you all!

Well, it is finally done! I'm glad to announce that the contract was signed with the Waldorf Astoria in Orlando, Florida and plans are underway for this year's 44th Annual Academy Induction Reception and Dinner. For our annual AAC Spouses Luncheon, the cost will once again be kept at $25.00 and same as last year it will be closed to AAC Spouse's only. I can assure you that both will be brilliant events enjoyed by all in attendance. Make your plans now to attend as seating will be limited so get your tickets early, if you plan on attending! More information will be forth coming in next month's AAC Newsletter and you can check our AAC Website for available up-dates!

As we move forward in preparation for our Annual American Academy of Chefs activities at this year's 2015 ACF National Convention in Orlando, Florida, here are some important highlights that I'd to share with you:

- On Saturday, August 1, 2015, we will hold our American Academy of Chefs Fellows Meeting that morning, and that evening will be our AAC National Induction & Award’s Dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

- Our annual AAC Spouse’s Luncheon will be on Monday, August 3rd at the Ilseworth Country Club.

- Dinner Journal advertising is available now this year for chapters, individuals and companies - we urge all fellows and chapters to get involved and pass on this information. Please contact Sylvia Gambrell at: (800) 624-9458 x 202 or at: sgambrell@acfchefs.net, for more information in placing an ad.

- Our AAC Inspire Book is on track at this time! The book is awesome & it will be release on or about May 10th for distribution to members and we still are on target for the July unveiling and the launch of the book signing at our ACF National Convention! Come be a part, be supportive, and be sure to pick-up & purchase your copy of "Inspire" and remember all 100% of the proceeds go to help our next ACF National Student Youth Team!

An opportunity presented itself recently whereas AAC Fellow’s Chef Mark Spelman, CEC, AAC, Chef Bill Sy, CEC, CCE, AAC and I, along with Pastry Chef Josie Paul coached, guided & taught vocational high school culinary students in Taipei, Taiwan in the planning, production, service and executing a Gastronomique Dinner event. The event was a "sold-out" event and its success raised $20,000 for local student scholarships. Please keep reading this news letter to see pictures from this wonderful event. Kudos to these outstanding Chefs that volunteer their time and exemplifying their dedication by living the American Academy of Chefs® Mission Statement. Thank-you Chefs!

And I would also want to personally thank all of you for your donations to the Academy in 2015. I realize and understand our economy is slowly progressively moving along in a positive direction, and, if you have not yet donated this year, I hope you find it in your heart to give something to the Academy. We are a
non-profit and it would be great to continue our offering of grants and scholarships and help our ACF Culinarians. Thank-you! Thank-you! Thank-you!

In closing, here’s wishing you all a pleasant & wonderful "Happy Mother’s Day!

Be Safe & Be Healthy~

Stafford DeCambra, CEC®, CCE®, CCA®, AAC®
Chair, American Academy of Chefs

Kai Ping Foundation Scholarship Dinner Event photos

Pictured from left to right: Chef Mark Spelman, CEC, AAC, Chef Bill Sy, CEC, CMC, AAC, Pastry Chef Josie Paul and AAC Chairman Chef Stafford DeCambra, CEC, CCE, CCA, AAC at the Kai Ping Culinary School in Taipei, Taiwan.
AAC Chairman, Chef Stafford DeCambra, CEC, CCE, CCA, AAC working with the Kai Ping Culinary Students.

Kai Ping Foundation Scholarship Dinner

Chef Mark Spelman, CEC, AAC poses for a picture with the Kai Ping High School Vocational Culinary Students.

Upcoming Local AAC Events
**ACF Columbus Chapter**

**Date:** Sunday, June 14, 2015.

**Time:** Reception at 5:30 p.m. followed by Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

**Cost:** $125.00 per person

**Place:** Sheraton Columbus Capitol Square

**Point of Contact:** Francine Greff, HAAC

Deadline for reservations June 4, 2015
Limited number of rooms being held at the Sheraton at a rate of $169 for out of town guests who need accommodations.

Contact Person: Francine Greff
121 S. Broadleigh Road
Columbus, Ohio 43209-1903
(614) 237-7047 or (614)327-1201

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**Nominations for Elected AAC Office**

Our AAC National Officer Nominations were closed on December 31, 2014 for the 2015-2017 two-year terms according to our AAC Nominations and Elections Committee Chairman Frank Leake, CCC®, CCE®, AAC®.

The AAC Nominations and Elections Committee have vetted the final AAC candidates and nominations were received for:

**AAC National Chairman:**
- Mark Wright CEC®, CCE®, AAC®

**AAC National Vice-chairman:**
- Americo "Rico" DiFronzo, CEC®, CCA®, AAC®
- Reimund D. Pitz CEC®, CCE®, AAC®

As part of our American Academy of Chefs® Policies and Procedures, all candidates for AAC Chair and AAC Vice-Chair must speak at both our AAC Breakfast Fellow's meetings during our upcoming ACF Regional Conferences.

I encourage you to come and hear what these great individuals have to say about their plans for the American Academy of Chefs® and its' future!

Ballots will be distributed by May 1, 2015 to all voting AAC Fellows of AAC and must be returned postmarked by June 1, 2015.

Read about the official 2015 candidates [here](#).
2015 AAC Hall of Fame Inductees

Wilie L Lewis, AAC
Jesse C. Mercado, CEC, AAC
Bill W. C. Sy, CEC, AAC

Posthumously
Enzo "Frank" Gronda, CEC, AAC

2015 AAC Hall of Fame Inductee
Sal Campagna, CEC, HAAC

2015 AAC Inductees

Northeast

John C. Burden, CEC
ACF of Greater Buffalo New York
Sponsored by: Dorothy Johnston, CEC, CCE, AAC; Cornelia Walmsley, CCE, AAC

Elena M. Clement, CEPC
ACF Nations' Capital Chef's Association
Sponsored by: William C. Franklin, CMC, AAC; David J. Longstaff, CEC, AAC; Thomas E. Peer, CMC, AAC; Curtis H. Eargle, CEC, AAC

James V. DiMarzio, CEC
Epicurean Club of Boston
Sponsored by: Americo "Rico" DiFronzo, CEC, CCA, AAC; Anthony M. Graffeo, CEC, AAC, HOF

Otto F. Kurcsics, CEC, CCE
ACF of Greater Buffalo New York
Sponsored by: Wilfred R. Beriau CEC, CCE, AAC; Louis Venezia, CEC, AAC

George M. Sideras, CEC
ACF Greater Dayton Chapter
Sponsored by: Keith E. Davis, CEC, AAC; Allan Gazaway, CEC, AAC

Southeast

Joseph Alfano, CEC
ACF Central FL Chapter
Sponsored by: Steven Jayson, CEC, AAC; Roland E. Schaeffer, CEC, AAC, HOF
Leslie L. Eckert, CEPC, CCE, MBA  
ACF Tampa Bay Culinary Association  
Sponsored by: Frederik J. Lucardie, CEC, AAC; Stephen M. Afflixio, CEC, AAC

Noralyn A. Galdiano, CEC  
ACF Central FL Chapter  
Sponsored by: Frank Leake, CCC, CCE, AAC; Jeffrey A. Rotz, CEC, CCE, AAC

Gerard C. Marquetty, CEC, CCA  
ACF Tampa Bay Culinary Association  
Sponsored by: Michael Deihl, CEC, CCA, AAC; Allan Gazaway, CEC, AAC

Dennie Streeter, CEC, CCE  
ACF North Carolina Chapter  
Sponsored by: Kimberly Brock Brown, CEPC, CCA, AAC; Louis Perrotte, CEC, AAC, HOF

Central

Peter Gebauer, WCMC, GMC  
ACF Chefs of Milwaukee Inc  
Sponsored by: John W. Kaufmann, CEC, AAC, HOF; Jesse W. Cobb, CEC, AAC; Gregory A. Wozniak, CEC, AAC

Harold E. Grose, CEC, CEPC, CCE  
ACF Greater Indianapolis Chapter  
Sponsored by: Jeffery A. Bricker, CEC, CCE, AAC; Glenn S. Brown, CEC, AAC; Donal Weaving, CEC, AAC

Mark Handy, CEC  
ACF Flint/Saginaw Valley Chapter  
Sponsored by: John W. Zehnder, CEC, AAC; Rajeev V. Patgaonkar, CEC, AAC

James Kremer, CEC  
ACF Heart of Illinois Professional Chefs Assn  
Sponsored by: Christopher Dwyer, CEC, CCA, AAC; Jeffrey Lemke, CEC, AAC

James F. Kokenyesdi, CEC, CCA  
ACF Michigan Chefs de Cuisine Association  
Sponsored by: Rene J. Marquis, CEC, CCE, CCA, AAC; Timothy L. England, CEC, AAC

Jackson York, CEC  
Texas Chefs Association  
Sponsored by: Kelly V. Cook, CEC, AAC; John D. Bretzke, CEC, AAC

Western

Michael S. Baldwin, CCE  
ACF Washington State Chefs Association  
Sponsored by: Mark A. Linden, CEC, AAC; Gary L. Fuller, CEC, CCE, AAC

Carlton W. Brooks, CEPC, CCE
The sale of the "American Academy of Chefs® Inspire book" has started.

To order contact:

Sylvia Gambrell
phone: (904) 484-0202
email: sgambrell@acfchefs.net

Or, order your copy on-line by clicking here: Inspire Book
PRE-ORDER YOUR COPY OF INSPIRE TODAY!
INSPIRE: A Collection by the American Academy of Chefs

$100 + $11.95 shipping

Only 1,000 copies of this limited edition collector's item will be sold. Proceeds benefit ACF Culinary Youth Team USA.

To purchase, contact Sylvia Gambrell at 904-484-0202 or sgambrell@acfchefs.net.


Through the Academy Connection e-newsletter, the American Academy of Chefs provides members with news and information on products and services offered by the AAC, its partners and American Culinary Federation. If you do not wish to receive the e-newsletter, please SafeUnsubscribe.