Award Winners Announced at 2008 ACF Southeast Regional Conference

More than 300 Chefs and Cooks Attended ACF’s Conference in Williamsburg, Va.

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla., March 4, 2008 – The American Culinary Federation (ACF), Inc., the largest association of professional culinarians in North America, honored its members and chapters at the 2008 ACF Southeast Regional Conference held at the Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, Va., March 1-3.

The 2008 ACF Southeast Regional Conference award recipients listed below will compete for the national title against their winning regional counterparts at the 2008 ACF National Convention in Las Vegas, July 14-17.

**U.S.A.’s Chef of the Year™, sponsored by Unilever Foodsolutions**
Russell Scott III, CMC; executive chef, Isleworth Country Club, Windermere, Fla.; ACF Central Florida Chapter

**ACF Pastry Chef of the Year, sponsored by Splenda®**
Vanessa Haden, CPC; owner/director, The Wedding Cake, Louisville, Ky.; ACF Kentucky Chapter

**ACF Chef Educator of the Year**
David J. Pantone, CEC, CEPC, CCE, AAC; dean of culinary education, Florida Culinary Institute, West Palm Beach, Fla.; ACF Palm Beach County Chefs Association

**ACF Hermann G. Rusch Chef’s Achievement Award**
Roland Schaeffer, CEC, AAC, HOF; retired, St. Augustine, Fla.; National Chapter

**ACF Chef Professionalism Award, sponsored by Nestlé Professional**
Hans J. Schadler, CEC, AAC; executive chef/director of culinary operations and development, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Va.; ACF Virginia Chefs’ Association

**ACF Student Culinarian of the Year, sponsored by Custom Culinary, Inc.**
JohnMichael F. Lynch; Vinnings, Ga.; apprentice and line cook, Cherokee Town & Country Club, Atlanta; ACF Greater Atlanta Chapter Inc.

**Baron H. Galand Culinary Knowledge Bowl, sponsored by Pearson Prentice Hall**
ACF Middle Tennessee Chapter; The International Culinary School at The Art Institute of Tennessee–Nashville, Nashville, Tenn.; Kristy Wilkins, coach

**ACF Student Team Regional Championship, sponsored by R.L. Schreiber, Inc.**
ACF Greater Atlanta Chapter, Inc., Atlanta; Andrew Miller, CEC, chef-instructor, Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts--Atlanta, Tucker, Ga., coach
The 2008 ACF Southeast Regional Conference award recipients listed below were recognized for their outstanding contributions and goodwill.

**ACF Chapter of the Year**  
ACF Greater Atlanta Chapter Inc., Atlanta

**ACF Chapter Achievement Award**  
ACF Greater Atlanta Chapter Inc., Atlanta  
ACF Tampa Bay Culinary Association, Tampa, Fla.

**ACF President’s Medallions**  
Michael Deihl, CEC, CCA, AAC; executive chef, East Lake Golf Club, Atlanta; ACF Greater Atlanta Chapter Inc.  
Anne Gregory; executive chef/owner, Xquisite Edibles La Femme Chef, Palm Bay, Fla.; ACF Space Coast Chapter  
Johnnie L. Jones; executive chef/owner, Genesis Cafe & Catering, Inc., Jacksonville, Fla.; ACF First Coast Chapter  
Dirk Rusthoven, CEC, CCA; corporate executive chef, IFH Foodservice Distribution, Hickory, N.C.; ACF Inc. Charlotte Chapter  
Hans J. Schadler, CEC, AAC; executive chef/director of culinary operations and development, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Va.; ACF Virginia Chefs’ Association  
Derek Spendlove, CEPC, CCE, AAC; baking and pastry-arts chair, Sullivan University, Louisville, Ky.; ACF Kentucky Chapter

**Joseph Amendola Outstanding Member Award**  
Jeff Bacon, CEC, CCA; executive chef/program director, Second Harvest Foodbank of Northwest North Carolina, Winston Salem, N.C.; ACF Triad Chapter NC.

**American Academy of Chefs Chair’s Scholarship**  
Tenita Weygand, Providence Forge, Va.; student, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Richmond, Va.; apprentice, Colonial Williamsburg Inn, Williamsburg, Va.; ACF Virginia Chefs’ Association

Chosen for its history and attractions, Williamsburg was the location of the 2008 ACF Southeast Regional Conference hosted by ACF Virginia Chefs Association. Bringing more than 300 chefs, cooks and foodservice professionals to the city, the conference provided attendees with numerous opportunities to advance their professional development and enhance their culinary skills through informative business seminars, forums, clinics and cutting-edge demonstrations. In addition, the conference offered participants the opportunity to learn about the latest cooking trends and techniques.

Sponsors of the 2008 ACF Southeast Regional Conference and national award sponsors include: Barber Foods; Beef Information Center; Buckhead Beef Company; Butterball Farms, Inc.; Canada Cutlery Inc.; The Cheesecake Factory; Contessa Premium Foods; Custom Culinary™; GFF, Inc./Girard's Dressings; Icelandic USA®, Inc.; La Brea Bakery; Lobster Select; Mann’s Fresh Vegetables; MARS Foodservices; Mind’s Eye Resource Management, LLC; National Honey Board; Nestlé Professional; NEWCHEF Fashions; Nueske's Applewood Smoked Meats; Pearson Prentice Hall; R.L. Schreiber, Inc., Royal Cup Coffee; Rubbermaid Commercial Products; Santa Sweets; Splenda®; SYSCO Food Services of Hampton Roads; Tyson Food Service; U.S. Foodservice and Unilever Foodsolutions.

The American Culinary Federation, Inc., established in 1929, is the premier professional organization for culinarians in North America. With 20,000 members spanning more than 230
chapters nationwide, ACF is the culinary leader in offering educational resources, training, apprenticeship and accreditation. In addition, ACF operates the most comprehensive certification program for chefs in the United States. ACF is home to ACF Culinary Team USA, the official representative for the United States in major international culinary competitions, and also holds the presidium for the World Association of Chefs Societies, the largest international network of chef associations with more than 8 million members globally. For more information, visit www.acfchefs.org.

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