Steve Jilleba, CMC, CCE, AAC, Receives Prestigious Chair’s Medal Award from the American Academy of Chefs

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla., July 14, 2008—The American Academy of Chefs (AAC), the honor society of the American Culinary Federation (ACF), honored Steve Jilleba, certified master chef (CMC), certified culinary educator (CCE), American Academy of Chefs (AAC), of Aurora, Ill., with the Chair’s Medal Award during a formal ceremony and dinner at the 2008 ACF National Convention in Las Vegas.

The Chair’s Medal Award is presented annually to an AAC Fellow who has demonstrated exemplary dedication and made outstanding contributions to the culinary profession. This individual has also maintained the highest standards and ideals of the AAC and has significantly and positively worked to ensure excellence among future culinarians.

Jilleba is corporate executive chef at Unilever Foodsolutions, Lisle, Ill. As one of only 61 certified master chefs in the nation, he has an impressive culinary background. He has competed and won numerous gold medals in the international “culinary Olympics.” Jilleba is a highly respected member of the ACF, and is the National Culinary Committee Chairman. He is also team manager for the 2008 ACF Culinary Youth Team USA. He is a graduate of The Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, N.Y., and an active member of ACF Chicago Chefs of Cuisine, Inc.

Throughout his culinary career, Jilleba received numerous awards, including ACF Central Region Chef of the Year in 2000, ACF Central Region Chef Professionalism Award in 1999 and he was named his chapter’s Chef of the Year and Member of the Year in 1999. Jilleba was also honored as one of Johnson & Wales University’s Distinguished Visiting Chefs.

The AAC, which recognizes those individuals who have made significant contributions to both the culinary profession and ACF, was established in 1955 at the ACF National Convention in Pittsburgh. Those credited with its founding include the legendary Pierre Berard, Peter Berrini and Paul Laesecke, HOF, AAC.

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The American Culinary Federation, Inc., established in 1929, is the premier professional organization for culinarians in North America. With more than 21,500 members spanning 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. For more information, visit www.acfchefs.org.

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