FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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R. Andrew Chlebana II, CEPC, Named National Pastry Chef of the Year at 2008 ACF National Convention in Las Vegas

St. Augustine, Fla., July 17, 2008—R. Andrew Chlebana II, certified executive pastry chef (CEPC), of Plainfield, Ill., received the American Culinary Federation, Inc., (ACF) National Pastry Chef of the Year Award at ACF’s 58th annual National Convention in Las Vegas, July 14-17.

Sponsored by Splenda®, the 2008 ACF Pastry Chef of the Year Award recognizes a pastry chef who has displayed a passion for the craft, has an accomplished reputation in the pastry field and has given back through the education of others by sharing his or her skills and knowledge. Chlebana competed against three others for the title.

Chlebana began his pastry career in 1996 at two of the industry’s finest hotel chains, the Four Seasons Hotel in Chicago and The Ritz-Carlton in Washington, D.C. and Amelia Island, Fla. He was then employed by Albert Uster Imports, Inc. in Gaithersburg, Md., where he was the youngest pastry chef in the company’s history. He joined Joliet Junior College in Joliet, Ill., in January 2006 as a pastry chef and an associate professor. He continues to teach today while employed as a pastry chef for White Eagle Golf Club, Naperville, Ill. He is a member of ACF Louis Joliet Chapter.

Chosen for its fine cuisine and world-famous entertainment, Las Vegas was the location of the 2008 ACF National Convention. Bringing more than 2,000 chefs, cooks, foodservice professionals to the city, the convention provided attendees with numerous opportunities to advance their professional development and enhance their culinary skills through informative workshops and seminars, cutting-edge demonstrations, a trade show featuring approximately 150 exhibitors, national competitions and national-award presentations. The sold-out third annual Certified Master Chefs dinner featured ACF Culinary Team USA.

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Sponsors of the 2008 ACF National Convention are: American Lamb Board; Bakewell Culinary Powders; Barber Foods; Belgioioso Cheese Inc.; Berkshire Meat Products, LLC; Buckhead Beef Company; Butterball Farms, Inc.; Canada Cutlery Inc.; The Cheesecake Factory Bakery, Inc.; Cleveland Range, LLC; Contessa Premium Foods; Custom Culinary, Inc.; Diamond Crystal; Dow AgroSciences; Ecolab; Federation of Quebec Maple Syrup Producers; Fortessa, Inc.; General Mills; GFF, Inc./Girard’s Dressings; Guittard Chocolate Co.; The International Culinary Schools at The Art Institutes; Johnson & Wales University; The King Arthur Flour Company; La Brea Bakery; Lantmannen Unibake USA; Lavazza, Italy’s Favourite Coffee; Le Cordon Bleu Schools North America; Mann’s Fresh Vegetables; McCain Foods USA; Meat & Livestock Australia; Mind’s Eye Resource Management, LLC; Nestlé Professional; New Mexico Department of Agriculture; NEWCHEF Fashions; Nueske’s Applewood Smoked Meats; Pearson Prentice Hall; Perfect Purée of Napa Valley; RC Fine Foods; RH Forschner by Victorinox Swiss Army, Inc.; R.L. Schreiber, Inc.; Rubbermaid Commercial Products; Saputo Foods; Snake River Farms; Splenda®, Sweet Street Desserts; Tyson Food Service; Unilever Foodsolutions; U.S. Foodservice; Ventura Foods, LLC; and Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board.

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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