



Confrérie de la Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Scholarship Recipients – 2013-2014

Johnson & Wales University is extremely grateful to the Confrérie de la Chaîne des Rôtisseurs for its generosity in awarding scholarships to deserving students enrolled in the university's College of Culinary Arts. Chaîne scholars' personal stories and professional goals are summarized below, along with their own statements on the impact of this support.



2013/2014 Chaîne scholars (left to right): Saphire Godin, Shuryon Wellons, Samantha Raymond, Noble Hopkins, Kristie Miller (with Paul Damiano, far left; JWU chef/educator Edward Korry, back row; Michael S. Parmet, far right)

➤ **Saphire Godin**

Saphire is very pleased with how JWU's facilities, faculty and staff are providing her with the education and experience she will need to pursue her dream of owning a bakery and restaurant. She knows that JWU is preparing her for all aspects of her chosen career, including the business considerations of business ownership.

Saphire works hard to make ends meet. Though she prides herself on being self-reliant – paying most of her expenses herself – she recognizes and appreciates the support she gets from others, including Chaîne des Rôtisseurs, who are making it possible for her to achieve her professional ambitions. She said, "Receiving a scholarship from Chaîne des Rôtisseurs is very rewarding. This motivates me to work harder and move forward with my career goals. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to succeed."

➤ **Noble Hopkins**

Noble, the youngest of eight children, cultivated an interest in the food and hospitality industries at an early age. His father, a world traveler, exposed Noble and his siblings to all types of food and was an accomplished cook who influenced Noble greatly. Noble worked numerous jobs as a young adult, but it was his first position at a catering business that “set the stage” for what would become his future career interest. He has now worked in the restaurant/hospitality sector for 28 years and has been promoted numerous times by his employers.

Noble is especially gratified by the creativity and science of baking and plans to open his own business selling his prepared or semi-prepared foods with an emphasis on breads and desserts. He said, “I want busy executives to purchase my meals to take home. I want to be their ‘off-premise’ personal chef. But I want my café to be driven by fresh artisanal breads and outrageous desserts. This is my plan and goal.” Noble is getting a lot of practice, both on campus and off campus where he researches recipes and methods and bakes daily for his roommates.

Noble has neither lacked ambition nor shied away from hard work. He takes advantage of every opportunity presented to him to work with and learn from as diverse and talented a group as possible – through internships, on-campus experiences and other means. His biggest challenges relate to “time and money” – scheduling work around his school commitments and finding the funding he needs to pay for his education. Noble had this to



Kristie Miller, Saphire Godin, Shuryon Wellons, Samantha Raymond, Noble Hopkins

say about his award: “It is an honor to have been selected as a recipient of a Chaîne des Rôtisseurs scholarship. The scholarship has gone a long way in helping me pay tuition and fees. Thank you to Chaîne des Rôtisseurs for investing in my future and helping to keep my dream alive!”

➤ **Kristie Miller**

Kristie considers herself a “young culinarian” excited by fresh food, and she is extremely grateful to her mentors and others who have helped her on her journey to JWU. She is especially thankful for her mother who motivated her and gave her the confidence to pursue her dreams. Kristie also recognizes the influence of her grandfather, an Italian immigrant and chef, who inspired her to love preparing and sharing food. Kristie said of her grandfather, “Just as I am sacrificing to stay at Johnson & Wales, my grandfather sacrificed a lot to make himself. I know he would be so proud that I am taking after him.”

Food and family are what “fuel” Kristie, and she looks forward to giving back to those who have helped her. She knows that her hard work at JWU will open many doors. Kristie is very grateful for the support she is receiving from Chaîne des Rôtisseurs. She said, “The scholarships that help me go to school are the reason I have opportunities at Johnson & Wales. I wanted this path and I am so grateful that it became possible because of all of the people who chose to invest in me. For that I am so proud and grateful.”

➤ ***Samantha Raymond***

Samantha, a Connecticut-born pastry arts major, looks forward to a career that involves sustainable, “farm-to-table” food. She is also eager to explore not only the options available to her as a pastry chef, but also the diverse cities where she might pursue her professional interests.

Receiving this scholarship was very important to Samantha as it will reduce her student loan debt and thus expand her range of professional options after she completes her JWU experience. Samantha wants to “pay it forward” in the future and said of her Chaîne des Rôtisseurs award, “Every ounce of support makes the burden a little easier to carry. I appreciate the support towards achieving my life goals, especially during such an indeterminate point in my life and career.”

➤ ***Shuryon Wellons***

Shuryon prides herself on her commitment to her family, and it was in her home, as a child, that she developed her passion for baking and pastry arts – a passion that was affirmed through her experiences as a culinary arts student in high school and at a community college.

Shuryon takes the “art” in “pastry art” very seriously and feels that the field offers unlimited options for creativity. Her dream of owning her own pastry business has motivated her both to overcome personal challenges and to inspire others to be strong and dedicated to their goals. She said, “By attending Johnson & Wales, my dream of being able to open my own shop will be easier because of the knowledge I will gain. My goal at Johnson & Wales is to expand my knowledge and skill set.”

Balancing her love of family and pursuit of professional and personal goals is a challenge for Shuryon. She is extremely grateful for her scholarship from Chaîne des Rôtisseurs as it helps her cover her expenses and relieve some of her parents’ financial burden. She said, “Thank you to Chaîne des Rôtisseurs for making it easier for me to continue on my journey to great success.”