

CHAINE SCHOLARSHIP PRESS RELEASE

Johnson & Wales Students Receive Scholarships from Chaîne des Rôtisseurs

Five students at Johnson & Wales have received a total of \$25,000 in scholarships presented by the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Foundation, the world's oldest and largest national and international food and wine society. The scholarships have been awarded to help fund the studies of these aspiring hospitality and culinary industry professionals.

Michael Parmet, Vice Chairman of the Chaîne Foundation, and Providence Bailli Paul Damiano presented the checks to Sapphire Godin, Noble Hopkins, Krisite Miller, Samantha Raymond, and Shuryon Wellons. The ceremony was held on December 9, 2013 at the Johnson & Wales Providence Campus. The scholarship money is raised from the National Chapitre Auction, Friends of the Chaîne Foundation, and the annual check off contribution from members.

The successful recipients were chosen after a review of applications and interviews of the finalists by Chaîne officers Edward Korry, and Peter Lehmmuller, former Chaîne Bailli's and now serving as Deans at Johnson and Wales Providence Campus.

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 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.”

The Chaîne des Rôtisseurs has 22,000 members worldwide in more than 70 countries, and 130 chapters and 6,000 members throughout the United States. Important programs of the Chaîne are annual Young Sommelier and Young Chef competitions held both nationally and internationally to encourage and help the development of aspiring young chefs and sommeliers. The Chaîne USA Foundation also awards annual scholarships to promising culinary students. Additional information about the U. S. Chaîne des Rôtisseurs is available at www.chaineus.org, and about the international organization at its website, www.chainedesrotisseurs.com.