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# Rancho Santa Fe REVIEW

*National Award-  
Winning  
Newspaper*



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## Six local hospitality industry students receive scholarships from San Diego Baillage, Chaîne des Rôtisseurs

San Diego's Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Chapter has brightened the future of six future leaders in the hospitality industry by awarding them scholarships to assist with their continuing education in food, wine, and hospitality service and management. The awards were made at the Wine Spectator's Celebrity Chef gala dinner at the Tenth Annual San Diego Wine and Food Festival.

The 2013 Chaîne scholarships total almost \$8,000. Recipients are Nolan Cooper, Katherine Hansen, Katie Klimuszko, Todd Renner, Jesse Rodriguez, and Tiffany Rodriguez. Three Chaîne officers (past and present Baillis/Presidents of the San Diego Bailliage) presented the awards: Attorney Harold Small, Chancelier des Etats-Unis (National Executive Vice President); Bailli Ken Loyst (co-owner of San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival); and Bailli Honoraire Steve Pagano (San Diego Marriott Marquis Hotel Manager). Funds are raised annually at the Festival.

Cooper, 38, wine director and general manager at George's California Modern, is pursuing the Master of Wine designation awarded by the International Sommelier Guild. He has already passed the organization's Diploma Program. Having also passed the first two levels of the Court of Master Sommeliers certification, he is working towards the designation of Master Sommelier.

A tasting room associate at Freemark Abbey Winery, Hansen, 21, is a junior at Sonoma State University, pursuing her bachelor of science degree in business administration with an emphasis on wine management. Klimuszko, a senior in the Hospitality Program at San Diego State University, is studying for her degree in hospitality and tourism management, with an emphasis in meetings and events. Renner, 30, executive chef at Blind Lady Ale House, who has a bachelor of arts degree from San Diego State University, is at San Diego State University working towards his master's degree in hospitality and tourism management. He has a diploma from the Italian Culinary Institute, Calabria, Italy, as Master of Italian Cuisine, Pastry, and Wine.

Jesse Rodriguez, 36, is the Sommelier at Montage Laguna Beach, and has a bachelor of arts in history/anthropology and master of education from Arizona State University. He is a certified wine educator, Assistant Wine Director of La Paulée, Assistant Wine Director for Wine Spectator Grant Tasting and seminar events, a semi-finalist for Outstanding Wine Service with the James Beard Foundation, and recipient of numerous other awards. He is pursuing the top level of Master Sommelier from the Court of Master Sommeliers. Rodriguez's



San Diego area hospitality industry students have received scholarships from the San Diego Chapter of Chaîne des Rôtisseurs. From left, Steve Pagano, Bailli Honoraire of the San Diego Bailliage; recipients Tiffany Rodriguez, Jesse Rodriguez, and Katie Klimuszko; Harold Small, Chancelier des Etats-Unis, and Ken Loyst, Bailli of the San Diego Bailliage.

wife, Tiffany Rodriguez, 36, also a scholarship winner, is General Manager of Bankers Hill Bar and Restaurant. She received a bachelor of arts degree (double major) in economics, English and creative writing, and was winner of the Shakespeare prize. She is seeking the Certified Cicerone designation.

Over the years, San Diego's Chaîne chapter has raised money for scholarships from a variety of special events. This is its third year of collaboration with the San Diego Wine & Food Festival to raise money for and award Chaîne scholarships. Nationally, the Chaîne has raised funds for, and awarded, more than \$3,000,000 in scholarships.