Special To The Herald:
The Herald has just received notice from the National Restaurant Association of the results of the 1997 Culinary Arts competition held annually during the meeting of the National Restaurant Association in Chicago. This convention, one of the largest in the United States, attracts over 100,000 restaurateurs, chefs and culinary staff from all around the world. More than 6,000 exhibitors display their restaurant support products for those in attendance.
Each year, the National Restaurant Association, in cooperation with the Chicago chapter of the American Culinary Federation, sponsors a culinary arts salon competition that is open to both professionals and culinary students from across the United States. The results of this national competition are in and Sullivan College was once again the clear winner!

Sullivan College Wins 7 of 9 Gold Medals and Sweeps Pastry Classification!
As each gold medal was announced, the cheers grew louder as one after another member of Sullivan College's Culinary Arts Salon Competition Team was called to the podium. Cameras flashed, tears flowed and the pride of accomplishment was felt throughout the room as every Sullivan competitor who entered the contest on behalf of Sullivan College's National Center for Hospitality Studies was called to the podium and presented with a gold medal. Then, to top it off, Mary George was called to the podium to receive a gold medal for best centerpiece, her second gold medal of the day!

Special Awards
The crowning activity of the show was the presentation of special awards which are given at the discretion of the judges. Of the three special awards given, two went to Sullivan College Culinary Team members. The Grand Prize Pastry Award went to Anne Sandhu and Best in Show was awarded to Joseph Blauvelt. If you think only women cry when they get excited, everybody should have seen Joe with tears of price and accomplishment streaming down his face as he accepted the largest trophy in the show from Culinary Salon Chairman Hubert Martin, CEC, CCE, AAC, of the American Culinary Federation staff.

And the winners are...
Joseph Blauvelt
Best in Show and Gold Medal
Kim Colburn
Gold Medal
Mary George
Two Gold Medals
Jenni Griffith
Gold Medal
Duane McPherson
Gold Medal
Anne Sandhu
Grand Prize Pastry and Gold Medal
We're Number One! Sullivan College coaches for this competition, Certified Master Pastry Chef Walter “Spud” Rhea and Certified Executive Pastry Chef Derek Sandvolds, join culinary competition team members as they celebrate another outstanding gold medal showing at the 1997 National Restaurant Association/American Culinary Federation Culinary Salon Competition in Chicago.

Anne Sandhu accepts her Grand Prize Pastry award from Culinary Salon Chairman Hubert Martin.

Joseph Blauvelt proudly displays his Best in Show award for one of the many photographers in attendance at the 1997 National Restaurant Association Culinary Salon competition.
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Sullivan Wins "Best of Show" Again!

Outstanding Work

The Culinary Salon provides an opportunity for the very best artistic pastry creations to be displayed. Time and time again, restorateurs and pastry chefs were heard to proclaim as they saw the Sullivan students’ work, “My pastry chef cannot do half that good;” or “I cannot believe this is student work, it is just outstanding!”

After the competition and many opportunities for photos from the press in attendance, the team returned to the salon display area where judges critiqued each of their creations to explain why they had received their gold medals and to offer advice to learn new techniques for improvement. Everyone from Sullivan was proud as they watched the competitors with their gold medals hanging around their necks and holding their trophies walk through the many aisles of displays on their way to the salon. The restaurateurs in attendance recognized that these were some very special people.

Team co-sponsors, Certified Master Pastry Chef and Chairman of the Pastry and Baking Arts Department, Chef Walter "Spud" Rhee, and Certified Executive Pastry Chef and Baking and Pastry Arts Instructor, Derek Spendlove, could hardly contain the pride they had in the accomplishments of this team. Other team members in attendance who have won medals in previous competitions, as well as those team members who will compete for Sullivan next year, also watched with pride as their teammates and classmates won medals after medal and well-deserved recognition.

Over 150 Medals and Awards

Students representing Sullivan College in culinary competitions have won 152 gold, silver, bronze, best of show, grand prizes, and other special awards in regional and national competitions over the past nine years. Examples of the students’ works are to be found in display cases located in the National Center classroom/lab area. Visitors are encouraged to come and see some examples of the work of these gold medal winning students.

Students in Demand

One of the major benefits of being a member of the Culinary Salon Competition team is the number of companies who saw the students’ work at the Restaurant Show in Chicago who will be calling Sullivan College in the next few weeks wanting to know when these people will be available for work and making job offers to team members. The team competes not only for the benefit of the students learning exceptional techniques in their field of study, but also to make the world aware of the quality education in culinary arts and baking and pastry arts being taught at Sullivan College.

An Added Bonus

After spending two glorious days of reviewing the booths and meeting the restaurateurs in attendance, the team was treated to a special luncheon by Nick Nicholas, owner of Nick’s Fishmarket, at his downtown Chicago restaurant.

This annual ”champions dinner” has become a tradition for the Sullivan College competitors, as long-time National Advisory Board Member Nickolas recognizes the talents of the school he has been involved with for so many years.

The Herald congratulates this outstanding group of men and women who have represented the college so well in this national competition.

Sullivan College's Culinary Competition Team members who competed and won medals and other awards in Chicago include, from left to right: Mary George, Sterling Heights, Michigan; Duane McPherson, Port Huron, Michigan; Joseph Blauvelt, Columbia, Missouri; Kim Coburn and Anne Sandhu, both from Louisville, Kentucky; and Jenni Griffith, Ashland, Kentucky.