



THE  
FRENCH PASTRY  
SCHOOL  
*City Colleges of Chicago*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **PASTRY CHICAGO'S CHOCOLATE SHOWCASE A FUN EVENT FOR ALL**

Whole Foods, South Loop Hosts a Successful Event for Professionals and Chocolate Enthusiasts

Chicago, Illinois (February 1, 2010) – Pastry Chicago and Whole Foods hosted the first Professional Chocolate Showpiece & Candy Valentine's Day Showcase at the South Loop location on January 23, 2010. Professional pastry chefs and chocolatiers showcased their special Valentine's Day chocolate products for spectators and Whole Foods patrons to stop by and sample. Some participants demonstrated their skills by bringing a chocolate showpiece, while others brought specialty candies and bonbons.

For the Love of Chocolate Foundation was represented at the event as well, and attendees had the opportunity to purchase tickets to the annual gala coming up on February 6, 2010. The gala will raise funds for scholarships for future students of The French Pastry School at City Colleges of Chicago. Donations to the scholarship foundation may be made through [www.fortheloveofchocolatefoundation.org](http://www.fortheloveofchocolatefoundation.org).

Participants in the showcase included some alumnae of The French Pastry School who have gone on to open their own businesses. This included Laura Case, owner of Beijo de Chocolat; Darlena Morgan, owner of DARLENA Artisan Chocolates; and Mamata Reddy, owner of Pomegranate Sweets & Savories.

"This was a terrific opportunity to interact with different people in a new setting," said Mamata Reddy. "Pastry Chicago and Whole Foods partnering to put together an event like this is a great service to the foodie community."

Also participating in the showcase were Nicole Greene, owner of Truffle Truffle; Karen Saberniak and Elizabeth Laubenstein representing Kohler Original Recipe Chocolate Company; Peter Rios and Ben Walker of Alliance Bakery; Robyn Rice-Foster, owner of La Parisienne du Chocolat; Daniel Herskovic owner of Mayana Chocolate along with Amanda Terbush, alumna of The French Pastry School; Eric Estrella and Paul Trecoci of the Ritz-Carlton Chicago; Jonathan Rodkin of Chocolate Gourmet; Katherine Duncan of Katherine Anne Confections; and Suzanne Weaver of The Cocoa Room. All companies are located in the Chicagoland area with the exception of Kohler Original Recipe Chocolate Company, in Kohler, Wisconsin, about 150 miles north of Chicago.

The showcase was displayed throughout the store of Whole Foods where members of Pastry Chicago as well as patrons of Whole Foods could stop by, meet the chefs, see their impressive chocolate showpieces and sample their candies. Following the showcase, Whole Foods provided refreshments for a reception in their café.

“The chocolate showcase was a great opportunity,” said Franco Pacini, Director of Pastry Chicago, “for our members who have entered the amateur or student competitions to meet professionals in the industry, taste their wares and ask them questions about a business they might one day want to be a part of.”

Pastry Chicago will have additional events and competitions throughout the Chicagoland area this year. More details will soon be available at [www.pastrychicago.org](http://www.pastrychicago.org).

***About Pastry Chicago:***

*Pastry Chicago is a group of passionate people who love and enjoy all forms of pastries. Pastry Chicago is made up of professional pastry chefs, students of the art of pastry and people who enjoy eating and the visual art of pastry. The goal of our group is to experience the Art of Pastry in all its glory at educational fun events across the city of Chicago and at the same time promote the fantastic talents of all the Artisans who work at the craft of producing beautiful delicious pastries.*

***About For the Love of Chocolate Foundation:***

*For the Love of Chocolate Foundation provides scholarships for qualified students in the specialized training of the pastry arts. The foundation awards scholarships to L'Art de la Patisserie program taught by The French Pastry School for the City Colleges of Chicago. For the Love of Chocolate Foundation promotes commitment in pastry arts education for individuals looking to change careers, as well as individuals who have shown potential in the culinary field but who have no formal pastry education. See [www.fortheloveofchocolatefoundation.org](http://www.fortheloveofchocolatefoundation.org) for more information.*

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For more information on Pastry Chicago, please visit [www.pastrychicago.org](http://www.pastrychicago.org), or contact  
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