2005 Seven Course Gala

Last year’s Seven Course Night fundraiser was such a big hit that this year’s event made the list of the 2005 Alabama Department of Tourism to promote the Year of Alabama Food celebration.

Guests arrived at the Capital City Club on March 17, 2005, to support the long awaited gourmet event, which put the spotlight on students enrolled at H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College’s Culinary Arts program.

Hosted by the Trenholm Tech Foundation, the black tie event is considered a major activity within the foundation’s capital campaign to raise funds for the construction of a new Culinary Arts Centre.

VIP reception

Trenholm Tech president Anthony Molina and his wife, Sonya, joined the foundation’s board chairman, Craig Washington, in greeting early arrivals at a VIP champagne reception on the club’s main level. Among the fellow board members joining them were Steve Flanagan of Alabama Gas Co., there with his wife, Debbie; Vicki Jones of Jackson Hospital; Chester Mallory of Mallory Realty Co., there with Earlene Patton; John Mitchell of the Montgomery County Commission and his wife, Mary; Ray Petty of SouthTrust Bank, Percy Thomas of Thomas Construction and Masonry, and the board’s vice-chairman, Douglas Jones, who is with the Montgomery Chamber. The board members were designated by elegant lime orchid corsages and lime button-mum boutonnieres.

Major contributors to the gala event were expecting a spectacular meal, but Cassandra Crosby, who planned the event, provided them with the added treat of being transported for the evening by stretch limousines. They were among the many arrivals greeted by Sheareese吉pson, Shonda Robinson, Carol Millender, Paul Blackmon, Joseph Trimble, Mike Miller and Zandra Toney, who presented luscious long-stemmed red roses to all the ladies.

An entertaining preview

Patrons enjoyed hors d’oeuvres during the cocktail hour as they mingled throughout the club’s entrance and Montgomery Room amid floral arrangements designed by Chefs Mary Ann Campbell and Robert Cawley.

They admired the artist’s rendering of the proposed culinary arts centre as they listened to students from Booker T. Washington Magnet School playing the cello, flute and piano. Later they ascended the grand staircase for a preview of the evening’s auction items.

Guests found their seats for the main event and seven-course dinner in the Terrace Level Ballroom, passing a display of specially embossed champagne flutes on a grand piano, which were souvenirs of the special evening.

The dining tables were set with elegant white cloths, floral centerpieces of assorted Gerber daisies and elegant menu cards detailing the evening’s gourmet presentation. Beautiful piped rosettes of butter were special touches added to each place setting.

Trenholm Tech Foundation executive director Mimi Johnson and her husband, Nathan, were among those enjoying the evening, as were the representatives and guests of the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation, the evening’s Platinum Sponsor.

Samarria and LLoria Munnerlyn, Juliana and Neil Probst, Cindy Turner and John Reutter, Nia Molina, SGA President DeAnn Shine, Miss Trenholm Tech 2005 Keisha Owens, and Phyllis and Randy Myers, parents of Culinary Arts student Beau Myers, were also among the more than 150 diners who supported the seven course meal and fundraiser.

A gourmet delight

More than 75 students are currently enrolled in the program. Their gourmet preparations were highlighted as Culinary Arts director Mary Ann Campbell introduced the first course of baby bay scallops in a phyllo shell with thyme cream sauce.

Paula Hansford, who works at the Capital City Club, introduced a smoked chicken consommé with fennel ravioli as the second course.

This article continues on page 4.
The Foundation’s annual fundraiser, the Seven Course Gala and Auction, was extremely successful in part from the wonderful support of Trenholm Tech employees, who purchased tickets to attend the event.


Employees of Trenholm Tech have given through cash or pledges a total of $26,664.04 to the Foundation.

This includes ticket purchases to the Seven Course Gala and Auction in March 2005.

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During the 2005 Commencement, Dr. Anthony L. Molina and Craig Washing, Foundation Chair, recognized the 2004 Chancellor Award nominees from Trenholm Tech. The honorees, Mrs. Cecile Stanford (Support Staff Nominee), Dr. Julliana Probst (Faculty Nominee), and Mrs. Betty Edwards (Professional Staff Nominee) each received a plaque, along with a check for $250 from the Foundation.

Mrs. Stanford has been employed at Trenholm Tech for ten years as an Outreach Coordinator/Advisor with the Talent Search program.

Dr. Julliana Probst is the Division Director for General Education and has been employed at Trenholm for 13 years. She started out as a part-time professional tutor for Educational Talent Search and Student Support Services. Later she became the Career Advisor for Student Services, and then Educational Talent Search for five years. In 1999, she was hired as a full-time English instructor.

Mrs. Betty Edwards, an alumnus of Miles College and UAB, serves as the Director of Financial Aid at Trenholm, a position she has held for six years. She has been employed in higher education for 35 years with 22 of those years in financial aid.

The purpose of the Chancellor’s Awards for the Alabama College System employees is to identify, recognize and reward members of the faculty and staff who have made extraordinary and sustained contributions to H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College (Trenholm Tech).

The principal aim of the program is the continual enhancement of professional development through the awarding of a $1,000 professional development stipend in the name of the employing college by the Alabama College System.

The 2004 nominees exhibited the goals established by the College for this award, which are the following:

♦ Be committed to excellence as demonstrated by the realization that the primary focus of education is the student and the development of supportive co-worker relations.
♦ Be thoroughly grounded in their profession as well as able and willing to share that knowledge effectively.
♦ Be motivating and able to stimulate students and colleagues to appreciate learning, to raise their expectations and to support the goals of H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College.
♦ Have demonstrated, through example, established qualities that make outstanding professionals at H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College.
♦ Be able to demonstrate exceptional collegial citizenship.

♦ Be able to create an aura that encourages approachability by students and co-workers.
♦ Be creative in the use of resources in order to accomplish their assignments more effectively.
♦ Be concerned enough to evaluate and to upgrade the effectiveness of their professional development.

The Chancellor’s Awards are most noteworthy because the nominees are selected by their peers.

Left to Right: Dr. Julliana Probst, Cecile Stanford and Betty Edwards
**Mission**

The Trenholm State Technical College Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization whose purpose is to improve the fiscal stability and visibility of Trenholm State Technical College.

The Foundation was created to generate funds to broaden educational opportunities and services for its students, alumni, faculty and staff.

When you give to the Trenholm Tech Foundation, you are providing promise, opportunity and hope for other individuals and contributing to important assets in our community — tomorrow’s leaders.

Contact Mrs. Mimi Evelyn Johnson, Executive Director, at 420-4243 to make a contribution to the Trenholm Tech Foundation.

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**Seventy Course Gala**

Paul Williams with the Regions Bank dining facility presented the broiled mako shark with grilled scallions and tomato basil coulis to the group of dinners, which was followed by a pomegranate sorbet intermezzo, introduced by Valerie Ware, director of sales at Holiday Inn East.

For the entrée, Lucas Dean introduced veal loin stuffed with chevre, basil and roasted garlic with roasted vegetable Napoleon.

The salad course was introduced by Catherine Tapia, a personal chef, who enticed the diners to enjoy a mache with roasted onions, Granny Smith apples and blue cheese.

Chilled cappuccino soufflé arrived in chocolate coffee cups as the dessert course introduced by Drew Bass from Albany, Ga., a kitchen manager for the Montgomery Biscuits.

**Support for a cause**

Ron Drinkard reprised his role from the first stellar event and served as auctioneer for six specially selected live auction items, assisted by Vicki Jones.

State Sen. Quinton Ross was among those in attendance as was state Board of Education member Ella Bell, who was joined for the evening by Karen Johnson of Selma and Franklin Schargel of Albuquerque, N.M.

Montgomery County Board of Education member Beverly Ross also was there, as were Keith Karst, Tammy and Scott Brown, Arthur Decote, Jimmy Varnado, Yvonne Saxon, Donna Cooper and Cassandra Burks.


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